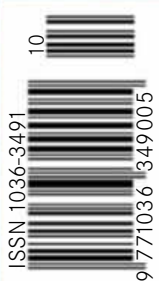


SURFING LIFE

MADE FROM SURFING

CHASING THE SWELL THAT SMASHED THE WORLD

PHOTO: CALUM MACAULAY



INDONESIA / WESTERN AUSTRALIA / SOUTH AUSTRALIA / VICTORIA / TASMANIA /
NEW SOUTH WALES / NEW ZEALAND / FIJI / HAWAII / NICARAGUA / MEXICO / CALIFORNIA



ISSUE 325 OCT 2015
AUST: \$10.50 inc GST // NZ: \$10.95 inc GST
UK: £4.50 // PP 435266/00005



LIKE WEARING NOTHING

MIRAGE
THE ULTIMATE BOARDSHORT
— *SURFING* —
IS EVERYTHING



LUKE HYND
WEARS MIRAGE COMBINED



CREED McTAGGART | *Lozz tides* | ALL DAY BOARDSHORT

BILLABONG

LIFE'S BETTER IN *Board Shorts*







CRAIG ANDERSON

RADICAL
TIMES

FROM
*Where You'd
Rather Be*



DRINK
WISE

@CORONAEXTRA - AU
CORONAEXTRA.COM.AU


Corona
Extra



THE WIND THAT TURNS THE WORLD

We've got nothing. Truly, we don't. The westerly winds girdling the southern pole of this planet have been blowing with varying degrees of intensity for millions of years. They were blowing before the continents were where they are now, before any of the surf spots featured in SL existed, before El Niño or La Niña, and sure as hell before anything resembling a human being walked on land. They bend and twist across oceans, trigger deep currents, change the shape of coasts, recede and return with the seasons. Compared with the energies exerted over time by these winds, all the efforts and triumphs and failures of our race are puny puffs of air.

The smartest thing we've ever done in response to that gigantic endless gale is to harness it: stick a sail out and be driven across the longitude lines, ride its tradewind offspring the wrong way across the Pacific, hitch a ride on its back and populate the world. And lately, in our tiny human way, paddle out and surf.

This issue documents a singular expression of its energy; a deep storm that developed in the back half of June just south of Africa and carried itself all the way into the South Pacific, spinning off swells as it moved. In just under two weeks, this storm flooded the entire Southern and Indian Oceans and much of the Pacific with surf. Its effects were global, and so was our response. From Jeffreys Bay to Puerto Escondido, from Telo to Hawaii, we saw that storm move and braced ourselves for its signal. We watched it through the data-capturing eyes of weather satellites; our supercomputers crunched it into prediction and eventually into real-time lines on a map. We looked at the forecasts and made forecasts ourselves, and in some cases even gave it a name: in Indo for example, it became The Muzzaswell, after ex-Uluwatu surfer Murray Close, whose untimely death coincided with its formation.

All this human activity around things like the late June storm can trick us into a kind of magical thinking. Just as once we invented gods to explain storms, now we have synoptic charts to convince us of their presence. Drawing out all those predictive lines on maps can conjure the illusion of control, making it seem almost as if the wind is corralled by our technology, somehow acting out our bidding, ridiculous as that sounds. It's the great human comedy, eh – everything revolves around us!

The truth is, as all of us who tackled this storm's swell energy know in our surfing bones, we had nothing to do with it. We just hitched a ride. We named swells, broke boards, got barrelled, got scared, got stoked, felt an energy pulse both newborn and older than human life, came away sore and tired and somehow richer for it. But none of it was our doing. Without that million-year-old westerly wind band, we'd be nothing. It's the wind that turns the world. – **Nick Carroll**



The swells that are generated by the wind that turns the world often find their first port of call in the south west of Australia, where all but the hardest of locals consider, contemplate and carefully construct excuses.
PHOTO: RYAN ROBSON





THE REEF ROVER WORN BY **MITCH CREWS**

JUST PASSING THROUGH



SWELLULAR TECHNOLOGY

FEATURED IN THE REEF ROVER

THE SEA IN EVERY STEP





LIVE IN TUNE

WHAT MOVES YOU

Marley is a movement.

Born in the details, with products thoughtfully crafted from earth-friendly materials designed to last. It lives in the music, with sound engineered to realise the true power, as the artist intended. It runs through our spirit and values. It exists for the planet.

DISCOVER HOUSEOFMARLEY.COM.AU
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

#LIVEMARLEY



BOB MARLEY™ MARLEY™ © Fifty-Six Hope Road Music Ltd., 2012.
Right of Publicity and Persona Rights - Fifty-Six Hope Road Music Ltd.
BOBMARLEY.COM

OWEN WRIGHT

ISSUE 325
PHOTO: ANDREW SHIELD



26

THE WORLD SMASHER

Guest Ed, Nick Carroll, breaks down the swell that almost broke us.



30

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Living life on the edge certainly has its benefits.



45

INDONESIA

Redefining perfection, where the definition was born.



61

SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA

In Australia's frontiers, tough men surf tougher waves.



71

THE PACIFIC

Half a world away from the source, but still with plenty'a sauce.



96

THE BOARDRIDERS BATTLE

It's back; bigger, better and with Beyonce.

REGULARS

012 716 WORDS

014 MOMENTS

093 TECH GUIDE

101 THE WIRE

108 SUBSCRIBE

110 THANKS FOR COMING



COVER SHOT

PHOTO: Calum Macaulay

This issue is all about one swell. Not one surfer, one session or one incident, but a whole gamut across the globe. So what better image to have on the cover than the swell, alone, feeling out one of it's first encounters with land at The Right.



SURFINGLIFE.COM.AU

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

**We live in an age of mass-media hyperbole. Things now are best-
evers, greatest in x amount of time,
the most this-or-that since records
have been kept, biggest whatever
since the last one. Media hyperbole
serves a purpose – we live in an
age where an increasing number of
media outlets contend for dwindling
advertising dollars.** Sometimes, in mainstream media and action sports, advertisers care more about the eyes on their product than the deceitful manner by which those eyes were appropriated. It's a jungle out there, and the unfortunate nature of the world as it stands right now is that the more sensationalist arms of media fare the best in this savagely competitive landscape.

Surfing, for the most part, is better than this. Our audience is expert and cynical. Surfers don't readily fall for claims of best-*evers*. In surfing, reputation is everything, for the brands and the media outlets, and it's for that reason the surf audience is subjected to less hyperbolic click-baiting than the rest of the world. But sometimes, man, sometimes the hype just flows forth. Enter, the swell of the millennia.

These days, surf forecasting websites are as much about attracting advertising bucks as they are about providing a service to the surfers. Yes, the two are indistinguishable, and if the forecasters do a bad job then they'll get no audience and thus no advertisers; but there's more to it in 2015: in 2015, surf forecasters are also news breakers, travel documenters, performance authorities and, when the winds align, swell-hypers.

It behoves the forecasting sites to hype swells, because the more a swell is hyped, the more its existence is known, and thus the more people flock to forecast sites to see for themselves just how big it will be, and where and when they can get theirs, if they want it. This is in no way, shape or form malicious. The forecasters are hyping swells that exist, and they wait until they're sure enough of their existence before hyping them. But given that sometimes the impetus to hype a swell is a competitive media

advertising landscape, rather than merely getting Geoff from Nabiac into the waves of his life, we can occasionally find ourselves wading through a mire of meteorological hyperbole.

The swells of the century/decade/year/season are good examples. These events very well could be the best swells of whichever timeframe we've allocated to them, but nobody knows that until it's done. Collecting the interviews for this magazine we noticed that a lot of the involved parties, surfers and photographers, said that the surf didn't match up to the hype – and that's not because the waves were crap, but merely because the hype did its job and made us form unrealistic expectations.

All year, Surfing Life had been waiting for a storm to stalk across the Indian Ocean, along the bottom of Australia and into the Pacific. We wanted to feel the rhythms of its swells across four continents and four oceans, to see whether people knew they were riding energy from the same source at the Ala Moana Bowl and J-Bay. This storm, this 'swell of the millennia' creating storm, was just the one for the job. The swell forecasters hyped it, we bit (and hyped it a fair bit ourselves online *blush*), and followed, and we weren't disappointed.

We've just got to play it cooler next time; to keep our expectations in check so that we appreciate each swell event for what it is, not what the hype wants us to think it will be. We've also got to keep our bullshit meters tuned in to their highest frequencies; to not believe the hype fed to us by all of the media: mainstream, surf, heck, even Surfing Life. We, of the surf media, have to remember that our audience values truth over sensation; that surfers know their sport better than anybody else knows anything. We're charged with the unique task of creating engaging media for experts, and it's best if we just stick to telling stories, as opposed to trying to trick crew into cheap clicks.

This mightn't have been the swell of the century, but it was a dang good one, and worthy of featuring in the best magazine of the past decade. Now, let's go and chase that storm.

– Wade Davis

When expectations become reality. Sheldon Simkus
PHOTO: ANDREW SHIELD



BREAKING DROUGHTS

DAVID CLANCY / RYAN JONES
10:46AM 19TH JUL 2015

I've got an idea. Let's find a stretch of desert coastline, largely inhospitable to mankind. It's got to be dry, dusty, arid and almost impossible to irrigate, let alone sustain significant agricultural activity. Then, now here's the brilliant part, let's populate it with around 22 million people that use, on average per household, 360 gallons of water per day, 20 per cent more than what is deemed sustainable.

Sound stupid? Well, dear readers, welcome to Southern California, part of the stupidest state on Earth! Jokes! Cali, we love and adore you and everything you've done for us: the surf industry, the skate industry, the birthplace of 'extreme sports', and your much larger influence on culture, art and music... plus, Arnie! But unfortunately the facts above are accurate and, well, things aren't going to get much better any time soon, because, global warming, and that whole 70,000-people-moving-to-the-region-per-year thing.

Californians know the cold, hard, parched facts about their water usage and the ever-intensifying shortage that looms over their heads. Due to this, when there's rainfall, in the middle of summer no less, and associated with a hurricane, it's kind of a big deal, as Golden State photographer David Clancy explains.

"We needed the rain that came with Hurricane Delores so, so badly! We aren't out of our drought yet, by a long shot. But everyone that was out in the surf was looking at each other, laughing, and holding their palms to the sky. Head-high waves, long rides with lots of face to work with, and unseasonably heavy rain falls. It was such a cool experience and one I won't soon forget! I was trying to shoot line-ups all day, so as soon as I felt a drop of rain, I would put my gear away and grab my board. No time for a wetsuit, just trunks and a tee and I was out there!"

Hurricane Delores didn't just provide relief for one drought; however, it also returned a small level of sanity to the state's army of surfers.

"It had been a really slow summer up until this point, with most surfers having to hunt around for two-to-three-foot faces, max, so the Delores swell was a great relief for many people and a lot of wave-starved parts of California. The most interesting part of this swell, though, was the southeasterly direction. A surfable SE swell for California is very rare and it actually misses a lot of beaches. This shot here is from Zuma Beach in Malibu; a bay that grabbed the best of the swell that I saw. The entire bay was lined with left-hand barrels for the duration of the swell. But anything south-facing along the coast grabbed a good bit of the swell. I don't think it entirely met everyone's expectations because it missed so many breaks and beaches, but those who were at south-facing beaches definitely scored. There were some little bays up the coast that aren't normally surfable, due to rocky outcrops and the primary swell directions, but they had waves that were just peeling down the line. It was a novelty spot swell, for sure, but you've got to take what you can get!"

That you do, California, that you do. However, with that in mind, ease up on the old water usage, would you? Taking what you can get might be better phrased as, take only what you need and leave the rest for, oh, I don't know, sustaining life, you crazy desert-dwelling bastards! 🐉







TEAHUPO'O

SOMEONE'S GOING TO DIE

📷 BEN THOUARD / 🏄 MIMI LAMONTAGNE
🕒 2:17PM 23RD JUL 2015

The swell that gave us the image you're gaping at right now gave us a lot more than we bargained for. We saw Jamie O'Brien light himself on fire and surf Teahupo'o in a flaming wetsuit. We saw Robbie Maddison, a professional FMX rider, put ski-boat-paddle-things on the wheels of his dirt bike, ride it into the channel (from the shoreline, no less) and pull into a bomb. On. His. Dirt bike. W. T. F.

It's as if the heaviest wave in the world is finally attracting the craziest people in the world. A fusion of extremes. It's bringing together the adrenaline junkies of the world – and whether they're prepared for it or not, they're going to sit in that channel and wait for the biggest set of the day, and do something we've never seen before. Because that's what they live for.

One of those men is Niccolo Porcella, 25-year-old professional kite-boarder gone stuntman gone wing-suit-flyer gone big-wave-surfer. This was his first trip to Teahupo'o – something that he had been dreaming about for over 10 years – and he came with two things in mind. He wanted to catch the bomb of the swell, and he wanted to experience a wipeout at the heaviest wave in the world.

He got what he asked for. And like us, he probably got more than he bargained for. "I look at the footage and I think, *Oh my god...* I knew it was going to be heavy, but in the moment, you're so focused and tuned into your line and what you're going to do you don't realise what's happening.

"It was my sixth wave, and I could tell that I was definitely too deep. I should have held onto the rope one extra second, I think, just to give me a little extra speed. But to be honest, there was nothing I could have done, because looking at the pictures afterwards, we saw there was a triple warble from the boats or the wave before. It was sucking up so deep and my board just stopped. I held on as much as I could, feeling good, and then my board just stopped. I knew that it was time to put all my training to the test.

"When I first penetrated in the water, I was like, *Ah, this is too good to be true! It's so peaceful! Let me just stroke to the top!* And then on one hand I felt water, and the other I felt air. And then I just thought, *Oh shit, I'm going over the falls.* This is when I thank my trainer for just being there for me, because we really work on strength and flexibility and holding my breath, and really, just working on the mind. Obviously the body can only do so much, then it comes down to the mind – you've gotta be able to say to yourself, *Keep calm, keep your core tight, and wait it out.*

"It was the most violent thing – I got annihilated. I was bounced, pin-balled on the reef, the whole nine yards. Just up and over and up and over. It held me under pretty long. My life vest got blown off right away, and then the second wave drilled me – I actually hit the bottom even harder. Hit my back, my knees, and then I got about four more waves on the head after that... washed over the reef...

"Manoa came over on the ski and his eyes were out of his head, saying that it was the heaviest wipeout he'd ever seen. I came up, spitted blood a couple of times, saw his reaction – then I just got this scream from deep inside me, just *Rhawghhhh!* I felt the most alive and grateful that I WAS alive, I was so happy. I had a headache for two or three minutes, then went back out and waited about 20 minutes for another bomb."

And fuck, we respect this guy. He's not your ordinary surfer. You wouldn't catch him out on a three-foot day at your local. In fact, he probably shouldn't even be classed as a surfer. But he's got guts, and the sheer fact that he survived this wipeout speaks volumes for his training, stamina, talent and grit (we really like grit here at Surfing Life).

But a word of warning: when outside extreme sports start meddling with the heaviest wave in the world, it's only a matter of time before something goes wrong, and someone dies. Because as much as you train and you prepare and you test your dirt bike skis, nothing but experience in the water can prepare you for Teahupo'o. 🐻



THE SUN ALSO RISES

AKA THE HUNTINGTON
OF THE RISING SUN

📷 BENJAMIN GINSBERG

📍 WADE DAVIS 🕒 3:12AM 2ND AUG 2015

Hiroto Ohhara won the US Open and in doing so added his name to the growing list of pronunciation difficulties in professional surfing. Hi-ro-to Ohhhhhara. Wiggoly Dantas. Adriano de Sowwwza. Adam Melling. Regardless, it's about time. Japanese surfing success has been a long time in the making, but we've been expecting them. Ever since Masatoshi Ohno starred in the Young Guns series. And why not? They've got the waves (hello Dane and John J in *Dear Suburbia*) and they've got the competitive infrastructure (g'day all the CTs held there in lacklustre waves in the '90s) and they've got the passion (konichiwa to the growing hordes of Miso froth dogs who descend on Australian beaches every year).

Hiroto's victory was one against the current status quo; a new world order that has only very recently risen against the old. Hiroto stole the victory from Filipe, who only very recently stole the short odds from Kelly, Mick and Taj, et al. Heck, wasn't it just the other day that Brett Simpson was the Huntington tyrant? The world of surfing is changing rapidly and Australian surf fans are doing a good, but difficult, job of adapting.

That said, do we give a hop? The relevance of the US Open is something that we really need to question. Does anyone give a flying sushi about fat turns out the back, followed by tic-tacking, and an air reverse on the shore? Wave in, wave out, woop-de-fucking-doo. How does that compare to macking Teahupo'o? Or even to small, inconsistent, dribbly Snapper? Fat Bells? We're a nostalgic bunch, we the collective conscience of surf fandom, and so we tune in and watch the pus and get kind of excited, but really, really, we shouldn't give a damn about watching the world's second best trying to squeeze excellence out of queef.

And I guess that says something of the changing nature of status quos. Sure, Filipe is the king in California, but his reign doesn't extend through the Pacific. Hiroto is most likely a nobody at Cloudbreak (although I'd be so stoked if he surprised us). Two fat turns and a chop-hop wouldn't even get you a look-in at Trestles, the Tour wave most like Huntington.

So while we should, and it's fun to celebrate wins and outstanding performances from professional surfing's fringes, we need to remember that while so many things seem like they're changing, when they matter, in conditions of consequence, where the spectacle really garners the world's attention, the old guard still, rightfully, are the standard setters.

Congratulations, Hiroto, and nicely dominated, Filipe; but seriously, let's get real about what impresses surf fans. 🐻





HELP!

IT'S ON THE WAY

SAUL/PROPERTY SHOT PHOTOGRAPHY RYAN JONES
10:00 AM 13TH AUG 2015

As much as we'd like to stick our heads in the sand and pretend everything in our world is sunshine and rainbows and daffodils, and has nothing at all to do with people on the Northern New South Wales' coast getting attacked and killed by big, grey fish, there comes a point in time when you can't ignore the obvious. **Something odd, something weird, IS happening.** Now, we don't want to believe the hysteria, and my word, we definitely don't want to feed into it. But honesty is always the best policy, and the Northern New South Wales coast, within the last six to twelve months, has experienced a marked increase in shark activity. Fact.

Surfing Life have never been on the side of shark culling. We have always been, and will always be, on the side of science. It's always best practice to understand a problem before any reaction is taken, especially that of the knee-jerk variety. The ocean is an incredibly complex and finely tuned ecosystem, of which the shark is the apex predator. To simply remove a large number of the dominant species from the ecosystem would have negative impacts, farther reaching than you or we can begin understand. The first step in any situation should be asking questions, before jumping to unresearched solutions. Why? Why are we seeing an increase in shark activity? Why at this time of year? Why at these locations? Why are they interacting with humans?

The situation needs experts. It needs their expertise. It needs them to show us that there is reasoning behind the problem. It needs them to show us a solution. It needs them to stop the toothless masses from leaving their rocking chair on their creaky porch, shot-gun in hand, and going out and destroying the ocean's finest predator and only asking questions later.

Thankfully, as of like, right now, \$250,000 worth of New South Wales Government funding is being employed to better understand the North Coast's shark problem. Primary Industries Minister, Niall Blair,

explained that the funding's goal is "to provide some certainty and confidence back to the communities that have been facing these shark incidents in recent months. It provides a measured, scientific-based approach to protect those communities and allow all of us to do what we love doing and that's go to the beach."

The approach is still largely being developed but it is believed that it will involve water surveillance by experts, as well as tagging and tracking of sharks in order to better understand their behaviour, with world-renowned shark experts from the Department of Primary Industries being based on the North Coast, leading the work. Alongside this, the department will have boats monitoring local conditions, including schools of bait fish, currents and water temperature trends, while a 'shark smart' program will aim to educate the public. Furthermore, Ballina Mayor, David Wright, said that drones, coupled with large screen televisions will be employed to help patrol next year's Skullcandy Oz Grom Open, with the potential for them to be used more largely in the DPI's initiative being addressed.

Mr Blair agrees with Surfing Life – go, us! – that research is the only answer. "We have no idea, and nowhere in the world does anyone have any idea, what causes these sudden appearances of groups of sharks along the coast. If we are able to determine that, then hopefully the aim would then be to be able to be pre-emptive in the years ahead." This would stop injury and loss of life for both water-goers and sharks, and that sounds pretty damn good to us.

While Surfing Life won't be jumping out for a solo surf at Boulders any time soon, and we're far from knowing the reasons why, and not much closer to a solution or peace of mind, yet, at least something is being done. And, thankfully, for all those right-minded individuals around the world who don't want to see a mass culling of the most impressive fish in the ocean, science has prevailed! 🐋

WET TO DRY

UNREASONABLY
FAST





O'NEILL
HYPERDRY

- + QUICK DRY
- + WATER REPELLENT
- + BREATHABLE

HYPERFREAK BOARDSHORTS
WITH O'NEILL HYPERDRY

JORDY SMITH

O'NEILL 

UNREASONABLE EXPECTATIONS SINCE 1952





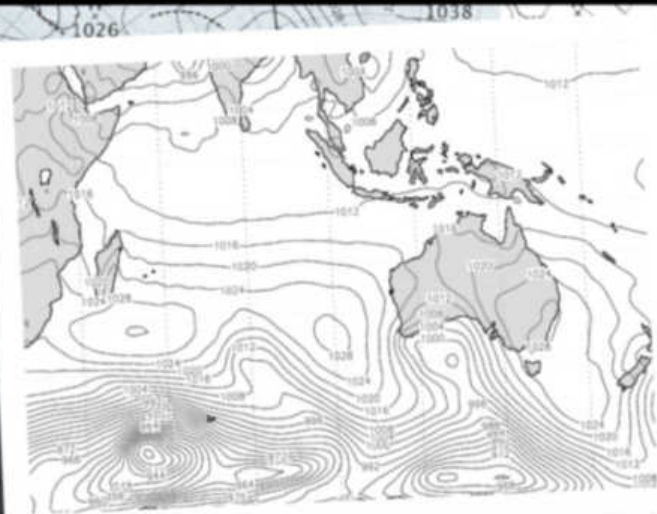
THE SWELL THAT SMASHED THE WORLD

HOW ONE STORM BLEW MINDS
FROM J-BAY TO CALIFORNIA

When these swells form off the bottom of Africa, and before they amble their way across the Indian Ocean and into the minds of surfers half way around the world, they send swell to our South African brothers, and it's not all about J-Bay – Durban, empty and on the pump
PHOTO: LUKE PATTERSON



THE GATHERING STORM



A DEEP LOW GAINS STRENGTH as it moves east from under South Africa. This is a day or so after the storm first formed, in one of the southern hemi's big winter swell breeding grounds. A lot of weird stuff occurs just south of Africa; there's a mixing of the insanely cold South Atlantic and the just slightly warmer Indian, plus further warmth flowing into the area from the massive Agulhas Current, which rips down the east coast of Africa, bringing near-tropical water from as far away as the Maldives. The clash of differing waters creates a surge of atmospheric energy which collides with the ancient winter westerlies. Result: An explosive and continually renewed area of low pressure and a massive intensification of winds. In this case, the storm quickly flared, producing a central pressure of around 930 hPa; deeper than many tropical cyclones and far wider in its effects. Look at the isobar lines bunched and stretched out already over 1000 nautical miles, reflecting the winds which run almost parallel to those lines. They're already beginning to twist toward a SW angle, pointing heavy gales at distant Indo and WA. Swell has pushed from behind the low into J-Bay and numerous other surf spots in South Africa and Madagascar, which see four- to six-foot swell lines as a result. The real beef is heading away from them...



DURBAN

SOUTH AFRICA

PIER-FECTION

South Africa has always seemed to excel at the casual yet ridiculous juxtaposition of things that look like they really don't belong together. Wealthy districts and slums. Soccer and vuvuzelas. Any other sport and vuvuzelas. Jordy Smith and weirdly positioned nipples. The Rainbow Nation also boasts a lot of mind-boggling natural beauty, but when it just so happens to be near her spectacular coastlines and world-class surf, most tourists don't quite appreciate the beauty down near sea level. That water's cold and there must be lots of sharks, because Africa. And so on. Eughh. But for some, South Africa's unique assortment of reefs, points and beachies are more than enough to spend a lifetime exploring and scoring. Local shooter, Luke Patterson, tells us about the latter.

"I live on the beach up the north coast of

KwaZulu-Natal, next to Ballito, and woke up to 8- to 10-foot bombs, with the odd 12-foot giant rolling in from really far out. A few of the boys had been called to J-Bay for the RVCA Supertrial, but it ended up not running because even down at Supers was totally maxed out and unsurfable. When the swell first hit I thought it was going to die down after two or three days, but four days later the boys in J-Bay were telling me that Supers was still huge. The biggest waves were on the coast both down south and up north, but because it was so big and it came with a morning high tide, most spots were unrideable. On one of the days Twiggy and I attempted to surf on the coast and it was easily eight-foot, which wouldn't have been so crazy if it wasn't 10-foot wide.

"After that session I was forced to go to Durban city and surf and shoot between the piers. Durban's

golden mile is just a setup of piers, each with their own unique right-hander barrelling off them. At least five of the beaches were spitting, and most of the guys that were in town made the right decision, because Durban is always a few foot smaller, and the guys who went searching got skunked with maxed-out 12-footers and even a few rogue 15-footers. Thankfully between the piers was just a solid six-foot-plus; clean and super-consistent even with the huge 19-second periods.

"Right from the start I was just thinking, *Water shots, all the way!* There were a few guys shooting land off the pier and although there was a gnarly rip and it was pretty solid, I knew just one decent water shot would make me more stoked than getting 100 from land. It all worked out, but it was definitely one of my heavier swims!"


 CALUM MACAULAY

THE RIGHT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

TATTOOING THE BRAIN

Some call it the heaviest wave in the world. Some don't. But it's undeniable that it's a beast unlike any other – and this round-the-world swell went straight for it.

"It was one of the most hyped up swells I have ever seen," says Mark Matthews. "It's not often that the mainstream media do stories about swells before the fact. Usually it's just after. But all the sites were talking about this swell. I was keeping an eye on the Buoyweather forecast, but it looked too good to be true – so I checked other forecasting sites like Swellnet and Coastal Watch, and they were all saying it was going to be nuts! I think it was over-hyped for some spots, but not for others. Cow Bombie didn't really seem to get all that big, but The Right was huge. I guess a swell that is in the 15- to 25-foot range for four days, with good wind and weather, deserves to be hyped.

"I flew from Sydney to Perth and drove down the coast to surf The Right. It was a really tough call between Cow Bombie, The Right, or going to South Oz. I was even looking at helicopter and private jet options to be able to surf different locations in the same day. But they were all too expensive. I ended up at The Right, because out of all the spots I'd hate to miss that the most.

"For me, the best session was the last morning of the swell, the Sunday. Everyone was surfed out and it didn't look like it would be big enough, so there was only one other team out. The conditions were dreamy. Not as big as the previous days, but perfect offshore and sunny. 10- to 15-foot and more fun, rather than terrifying. Haha.

"Phil Read [former AFL player] had the worst wipeout of the swell at The Right. I towed him into one that closed out and his board smashed him in the head, then he got held down for two waves. He came up really concussed, with a good gash on his cheek that he had to get stitched up later on. The peaks of the swells on Friday and Saturday afternoons were particularly dangerous because the sets were not only massive, but super consistent, so there wasn't much water left on the reef, which made the percentage of evil closeouts way higher than usual. I'd say the sets were 25-foot-plus, and it seemed like the swell was biggest for a few hours before dark on both Friday and Saturday.

"There were some amazing images of the inside of some big barrels tattooed in my brain, but I came out relatively unscathed in regards to wipeouts. Some of the photos I have seen are some of the best I've ever had in my career, though. I'll be showing them to my kids one day... that's for sure."



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COW BOMBIE

ESKIES, BROKEN JETSKIS AND NEWBORN BABIES

Jamie Scott is one of the most well-known surf photographers in the WA region, and because of that, it wasn't difficult for the media to get a hold of his phone number. This was, after all, the swell of the decade – and they NEED THEIR SCOOP, DAMMIT! He had media outlets ringing him before he had even taken a single shot.

But it wasn't until the biggest day, Friday, when they really got their story.

"The swell started to fill in on Thursday, reaching a period of 22 seconds on the swell buoys, which I've never seen before – so I knew it was going to be a big Friday morning. When dawn broke, the bay at North Point was occasionally closing out, and we were getting pretty excited.

"We jumped on the skis and headed a few kilometres out to sea. It was pretty windy offshore first thing in the morning, too windy to paddle, so Jarryd Foster and Mick Corbett caught a few

tow waves, but nothing that huge. Then, all of a sudden, my ski started running really rough and it had no power at all. To add to this, my driver, Simon Fossilo, and I were in the line-up and a set was rapidly approaching. We managed to putt back to the safety of the channel before it broke, and I jumped into the water to try to find the problem with a pair of goggles on. I thought we must have sucked some seaweed up into the jet.

"I couldn't see anything stuck up there at this stage, and thought I had done a bearing and was up for a \$2000 repair bill. So we did the very slow drive back to the boat ramp (max four km/hr). This was the scariest part, having to come back through the bay, with no power and 15-foot closeout sets a regular occurrence. I was shitting myself. We had another ski come in with us, so I got my driver to jump onto that ski with my camera gear, in case I was mowed down by a set on the way to the boat ramp. Somehow I made it

into the safety zone of the bay, just as a massive set closed out.

"Once I reached the boat ramp I looked up under the ski and could see something wedged in the impeller. I unbolted the grate off the bottom of the ski and reached up to the object that was jammed in there. It was a handle off an esky, or something like that! It had been floating around in the ocean for a while, as it had growth on it... What are the chances!?

"Anyways, the ski ran perfectly after that, and I was so relieved that both I and my ski were in one piece. We went straight back out; the wind had dropped off and the boys were starting to paddle. Mark Visser ate shit on the first wave, getting thrown over the front of his board and mowed down by 30 feet of white-water. Then the lads started getting some good ones, and it was game on.

"The next day was pretty much the same, although the bay at North Point was consistently



15-foot closeouts, so it took some time to negotiate our way out through the bay. It was really windy in the morning again, so Jamie Mitchell was towing. His mate, Justin Holland, had caught a few small ones, and then the biggest wave of the weekend came. It was a 60-foot plus face, and Justin was hurtling down this monster – he made it to the bottom and then all hell broke loose. The white-water exploded just behind him and he went down. He snapped his femur. Justin was in trouble. Jamie couldn't get in to rescue him on the ski straight away, as another one or two 40-foot face waves broke on top of Justin. All the training that those boys do finally came into play, and finally Jamie was able to get Justin onto the sled, where he and another rescue driver assessed him and tried to stabilise him. It was a long and painful ski trip back to the boat ramp, where an ambulance was waiting for them. He's still recovering well, and honestly, a true legend.

"We waited for the wind to drop for a few hours and hit it again in the afternoon. The swell was still big and all the lads got a few more keepers, before we decided to call it a day."

Jamie Mitchell, the man who towed Justin into the wave that broke his femur, was also one of the guys that went back out with Jamie Scott. And for him, it was the best session of the whole swell.

"It was a pretty crazy trip for me, overall. I live in Hawaii full-time now, and my girlfriend was about three weeks from her due date for our first baby, so it was borderline even pulling the trigger on going at all... but she was super cool, so I flew in the day before the swell. It was an in-and-out strike mission for me.

"The biggest part of the swell, for me, was definitely Saturday morning. It was closing out at North Point, and Cow Bombie was a little more inconsistent where we first showed up. It had a fair bit of wind on it, like a devil wind up the face.

And that's when Justin's accident happened. It was a really heavy situation, and it could have been a lot worse. I'd like to thank Paul 'Antman' Patterson and Perry Hatchet from Water Patrol Australia for looking after us with the skis and safety. I'll never forget that wave, though – you never want to see anyone get hurt, especially that badly, and especially when it's one of your best mates. It'll always be in the memory bank.

"But after we had made sure Justin was OK and taken care of, we left the hospital and went straight back out. We paddle surfed it for almost four hours by ourselves; it was just me, James Hick, Mark Visser and Jamie Scott shooting. It was really solid and really clean, and definitely the most memorable session of the whole trip."

As Jamie Mitchell tells us this story, he's sitting at home in Hawaii with a three-day-old baby. Congratulations, Jamie.



NORTH POINT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**HONEY? I THINK WE'RE GOING TO
NEED A BIGGER MEMORY CARD..."**

I first heard of this swell a week or so before it hit through Surflife," says Joel Nankivell, local Margaret River photographer. "I was scrolling through my Instagram feed and a post from Surflife appeared with this monster of a purple blob that took over the screen of my phone! From that moment I knew we were in for something special, and I tracked the swell and the conditions right to the first day it hit.

"The morning it arrived, I woke up before the sun had risen, checked the live swell buoy on my phone and jumped in my car to make my way to shoot North Point. The moment I came over the hill at Gracetown and saw the ocean, I knew we were in for something amazing. There were stacked lines in the bay, leading all the way out to sea. The sets at Gracetown were too big to surf – it was almost maxing out across the whole bay, from South Point to North Point. The set waves came in threes and fours, and it was so consistent. There were cars parked everywhere, people running around, jetskis being launched, pro surfers, eight-foot gun surfboards, and some of the biggest, gnarliest waves I've ever seen roll through Northies.

NORTH
POINT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

"The best session, for me, was on the second day of the swell. Taj Burrow and Dino Adrian were out at North Point doing 'step offs' from the jetski onto waves. I drove down with a mate early morning, and managed to snag a park that overlooks the reeling right pointbreak. While I was still in the car I grabbed my camera and was getting all my settings right, and when I lifted my camera I saw Taj Burrow step off the ski into a beast of a wave. I started firing some shots off as he pulled into the deepest tube I've ever seen. He looked like he was too deep and wasn't going to make it, but sure enough, he popped out of the end bowl. I managed to snap a 31-shot sequence of the barrel, and when Taj got out from his surf, I showed him the shots and he lost his mind. He ended up sharing the sequence on his Facebook page, and it was viewed over 165,000 times – that was a huge highlight for me."

We ask if Joel is going to do anything differently if he's around for another swell like this....
"Ha! I think the next big swell I'll be buying a few bigger memory cards for my camera. I filled one up in the first hour, and my other two I had to shoot conservatively with for the rest of the day."



Californica Boardshort
Bryce Young



Our Upcycled Coconut Stretch Boardshorts are made with yarns upcycled from coconuts. Upcycling is the process of converting useless products into new garments. This allows us to create performance garments with faster dry times and UV protection while reducing the amount of coconut husk waste in landfills.

THE WORLD

TOO MUCH FUN WITH FISH

With his nonstop energy, twisted sense of humor, and manic cackle, six Paul Fisher's is five too many. But a man can never have enough surfboards. And while he may be well known as "the guy who rides a dick board," Fish is far from a one-dick pony, he shreds everything SUPERbrand from the Fling to the Vapors on the regular! With high shredability in mind, slight modifications, all new graphics and tees to match—there's a setup for everyone. The World Is Super.

IS SUPER.





SURFBOARDS & APPAREL. THE WORLD IS SUPER.



KERBY BROWN

NORTH WEST

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CURING HANGOVERS

There's a stretch of West Australian coastline much less frequented than the south-west. It's a little less crowded, a little further north, and takes a little bit more of an effort to get to. But on swells like this, well, it lights up. And with not too many takers. A man who knows this part of the coast better than most, and would never miss a swell of this size and power at home, is Kerby Brown.

"We tracked the swell the whole time across the Indian Ocean. We could see it coming from a really long way away and it was pretty obvious it was going to hit the whole coast, but you never really know. It's always a mindfuck leading into a swell. Usually I would have gone south to The Right or somewhere like that, but we were trying for this crazy wave around home that only breaks on huge swells. We all wanted to avoid the crowds.

"The first morning, my brother Courtney and I were surfing this crazy spot, that we can't reveal yet, but it was definitely out of the ordinary! We had a film crew come with us for this swell, so I am sure you'll all see something from these sessions soon. We were up before the sun, just waiting. It didn't look huge. But the period was so large that there were huge lulls, so it was hard to tell. When the sets came, though, there was so much water in them. We knew we were in for some thick chunks of ocean! It wasn't the biggest I'd ever seen, but it certainly was one of the highest periods. The waves were taking all the water off the reef they were so thick. Twenty-minute lulls and then two big bombs, then into another big lull. Crazy.

"After two days of pumping barrels everyone was on a high, and it was Saturday night so we all got carried away and pretty much had a party at my place. We figured it would have dropped off by the Sunday. So with little sleep, and still feeling the effects of alcohol, we checked it Sunday morning and it was bombing again! The swell was relentless, and went on for another day after this, too, which is actually when this shot was taken! The overall memory from the swell was just all the boys from home, good mates, having a blast. The way it should be!"

THE SWELL THAT SMASHED THE WORLD



NORTH WEST

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NOT BLUFFING

When you follow a swell this far up Australia's west coast, hell, you might as well do it properly – load up the troopie, fuel up the genny, pack some supplies and head into the desert to really milk what you can out of it. That's exactly what Kalbarri's Mike Riley did. Some of Australia's most remote waves lie in the country's north-west, as well as some of Australia's most hardcore surfers, committed to the isolation, hard-living, pristine marine life and occasionally perfect waves that grace this stretch of coast during the Indian Ocean's on-season, as Mike explains.

"I was already camping at The Bluff a week before the swell came, and hadn't really seen much about it because we don't get much reception up there. You get the odd weather report, but that's about it. There was a bit of talk around the camp that it was 'the swell of the century' and that got everyone a bit excited, but you can never really know what's going to happen; sometimes you just have to see it with your own eyes.

"I shot two sessions on the biggest day of swell – the morning at Gnarloo and the afternoon at The Bluff. I got to the Gnarloo carpark in the dark – only a few other cars were watching, waiting for the first visible wave, which looked pretty perfect, but being very dark and cold, there was no one out yet and no real way to judge the size. I waited at least 30-40 minutes before the next big set came through. It was a bomb and no one could even get near getting into it. Sets came through like that and the following waves were usually washed out from the monster before. There were mostly tourists out, with a few local guys out there. I saw Dave Macaulay get one of the best waves of the morning, and I also saw Shaun Howe get a couple of really good ones out there.

"I shot with Lockie Caldwell at The Bluff. He is a mad man out there and definitely has the place wired, better than anybody else, as he should: he lives right in front of it!"





Lockie Caldwell



photo: Stuie Burns



G R X E L L E

www.gravellesurfboards.com



Surfers already in Indonesia sat poised, waiting, anxious as the internet lit up with Western Australia's swell party. One of these surfers was Kai Hing. His patience paid off two days later.
PHOTO: ANDREW SHIELD



BLOODY HELL!



This is the weather map that caused surf forecasters to have a sort of collective global hernia. A day after the storm had gathered, it's not so much a storm as a fetch – a colossal, raging south-westerly wind band bigger than the entire Australian continent, pulling gales from under South Africa all the way out to the middle of the southern Indian Ocean. The fetch has several different features which go some way to explaining how the resulting swell pulses struck home. There's a tightly spun area of extra juiced SSW winds just behind the centre of the low; a slight bump of WSW winds just ahead of the main bulk of the fetch; a crazy super-charged stretch of winds raging north of the low; and a long, drawn-out back end to the fetch with a lot of energy aiming at southern Indonesia. Thus in Bali, the front end of the Muzzaswell was solid but not out of hand, while two days in, it suddenly surged to a maximum, with serious big set waves at the back of Ulu's reefs. That's the back end of the fetch you can see here doing its work. Oh – and see that little tiny chunk of black in the middle of the fetch? That's Heard Island. Three days of 60 to 80 knot winds and sleet, anyone?



PADANG PADANG

BALI

A RETURN TO THE CLASSICS

Bali's good for lots of things. It's good for people watching and losing your mind over attractive Russians/Scandinavians/Germans. It's good for pleasant holidays, but even better for terrible ones. Plus, it's so good for surfing that you'll find a world-class spot every few kilometres along its coastline. Thankfully, even in 2015, some of these spots remain unmolested by all but the most informed of the local cognoscenti. But, even though a swell like the one we're documenting here may cause your head to spin with the possibilities of mysto breaks and seldom-surfed nooks and crannies, sometimes it's better to go with a classic. And, as one of our favourite Kiwi lensmen, Rambo Estrada, can attest, there's nowhere more classic than Padang Padang.

"I was staying on the cliffs above Impossibles. Watching it from there the night before, it wasn't that big. To be honest, it didn't really look like some massive Armageddon swell, you know. It was just a solid, perfect day. I was pretty nervous the night before 'cause I've never swum out at Padang before and had no idea what it'd be like. I was kind of imagining that I would wake up in the morning and see these 12-foot lines coming in everywhere, but it ended up just being a big perfect day – a day that you'd hope for, not one that you'd be really scared of.

"When I woke up in the morning there were guys getting waves up at Impossibles – they were solid waves, but they didn't really look life threatening or anything. It just looked like, *Ah man, those guys are having such a good time!*

"People were still getting pretty angry out at Padang, though. On the Saturday there were probably 80 guys in the line-up, plus eight or nine water photographers. It was intense. I couldn't believe my luck when Julian Wilson paddled out, but even he struggled to get a set wave. Every single local was out there and they were just fighting amongst themselves. And even though Julian's the reigning Pipe Master, he still got burnt on two bombs in a row, so it's next to impossible to get waves off the locals when it's like that.

"I actually saw one of my Kiwi friends, Dawson, get in the spot for one of the biggest waves of the day, but he got held up in the lip and then it absolutely destroyed him. It ripped his vest off, broke his leggie and somehow tore off one of his toenails completely. He couldn't find his board, so he ended up on the beach, but one of the lifeguards told him it had probably ended up in a little cave nearby. He went out there and it was sitting in the cave without a ding on it, next to three other half broken boards! I was pretty scared for his safety, seeing him get thrown over the falls by such a thick lip, but he just paddled straight back out, missing a toenail. You'd need to have done several seasons out at Padang on every good swell to be able to have a decent session out there.

"In the situation I was in, I'd definitely go to Padang again. There wasn't really anywhere else in Bali that was gonna be that good. I can't wait to shoot there next time it's like that. I guess I'll just have to wait for the next swell of the century? Haha."



NOKANDUI

THE MENTAWAIS

YES KANDUI!

The Kandui session was the most widely publicised Indo session, for obvious and terrifying reasons. The most top-class surfers made their way to Kandui, and the grinding left-hander got a healthy dose of ocean and turned it into spectacular and horrifying tubes. Some of the waves of the swell were ridden at Kandui. Mind blowing, time-bending lefts that left us on the edge of our seats, cheering the

boys through the tube, not wanting to look at the end section, but unable to look away.

They say that Kandui doesn't spit, that it moves too fast for the barrel's breath to escape its lips. The wave is a freight train that requires surfers to really shake it through the sections, lest they get eaten by the breathless beast roaring around them. Craig Ando was there, and showed that he is far from being a small-wave heaps-of-trick pony.

"I had two memorable rides that stood out from the rest of the waves I caught. My first wave out at Kandui, just because I had sat for a solid hour and it was probably the biggest one, and I got a beating on the end bowl; the next wave, a solid 10-foot on the head on the sketchy shallow end bowl, I came out pretty shook up, but not a scratch.

"Another wave was on the second day, and



📷 IKER SAN MARTIN GARCIA

that's the one that everyone asks me about because there was an image floating around after the swell. One of the bigger waves of the swell. I'm not sure what urged me to take off on it as I knew it wasn't going to hit the reef right, but it was the 8th and last wave of the set and I didn't have the courage to take off on the first few (which I knew were perfect). I just didn't want another beating on the end section like my first

touch of the wave the day before. It was a great wave to ride, and even though I didn't get tubed it was such a smooth, enjoyable ride that I had such a cool connection with up until the last part, where it went choppy from the waves before.

"The swell was really long period, tonnes of energy. Eight-to-10 wave sets. First day was clean, raw, big lines and the two days after were really groomed and as perfect as waves get. I surfed

Kandui for two days then when the swell started to drop, E-bay for two more days.

"Sessions like that will never be lost in my memory, and just to venture up there with some good friends and ride some of the best waves I've ever seen, and do it not on a boat or at a ritzy island camp. Ferries, local boats, jungle camps, and going a little off the beaten track was exciting, rewarding and fun."

LANCES RIGHT

THE MENTAWAIS

IT DOESN'T GET BETTER, SERIOUSLY

From anywhere in the world, a mission to most of Indonesia requires a few planes, some terrifying car rides, and a leaky ferry or two. As surfers and surf media across the world scrambled to get to the archipelago's southern shores, Sheldon Simkus, Kai Hing and our own Andrew Shield were already just around the corner from the spot they wanted to surf – it's just that they didn't know it yet.

SHIELDSY: "Fortunately I was already in Indonesia [when I heard about the swell]. It proved harder than it should've been to organise people to shoot and find somewhere to go, but fortunately Kai and Sheldon stayed on, and the guys at Kingfisher Resort had space for us."

SHELDON: "The first I heard about this swell was about a week into the [Surfing Life] Hot 100 trip. It was just after our first taste of HT's and everyone was pretty eager to see if we would get more. Slowly we started seeing the huge purple patch start forming south-west of WA, but it wasn't until two days left in the trip that we noticed the swell was going to hit the afternoon of our departure date, and it was going to be solid. Long story short, we extended our stay at Kingfisher Resort knowing swell was coming, but were unaware of wind direction, which was changing every day at that stage. Charter boats that were in the area gunned it south or towards Telescopes."





KAI: "We really only got one day that was worth staying for, as the first two days of the swell were onshore at HT's. On the Sunday, however, the wind was the best it had been for the whole trip and we knew that we were in for a big day of surfing. As we got around it was picture perfect with not a soul around – no boats, no other surfers in the line-up. I don't think that Sheldon and I could have gotten out there quicker. We surfed for about three hours, then came back to the boat and ate some Beng Bengs, drank some water, and

surfed for three more. By the end of it we were pretty cooked."

SHELDON: "I can clearly remember the first exchange of the session. Kai and I got out there quicker than ever and just scraped under a couple of big roll-ins that were easy 10-foot. This wave came through and it was the glassiest wave I've ever seen. Kai was in the spot and I saw him drop in perfectly. I quickly turned to see if there was another, and funnily enough almost the exact same wave

was behind it. I felt like the wave came straight to me; I didn't have to go deeper or wider, I just stood up and didn't pump once, and the wave just did its thing around me. It was like extending the trip right at that exact moment was so, so worth it. I remember getting shot straight towards Kai and he was claiming and I even threw my head back in excitement. We were screaming paddling back out, and the best thing was we paddled back into an empty line-up and had choice of any wave we wanted. It seriously doesn't get any better than that."

A collection of Nixon digital watches with translucent plastic cases and matching rubber straps. The watches are arranged in a circular pattern around the central logo. The colors of the watches include blue, red, yellow-green, and white. Each watch has a digital display showing the time (12:38:56) and the date (AUG 13). The buttons are labeled 'MODE', 'START', and 'LIGHT'.

NIXON

THE COMP

nixon.com



PULAU NIAS

INDONESIA

HUNTING EXCLUSIVES

Nias is a go-to when the Southern Indian Ocean turns its swell factory purple. It's as photogenic as a Mila Kunis X Miranda Kerr sandwich, handles swells as big as they wanna be, and turns fast moving lumps into oversized, nasty, deep, black slam caverns. The only downside of a jump to Nias is that every fin dick and shutterbug with a shred of skill and more than a touch of cajones will make the journey too, provided they have no other, better options. It's probably the only place in

the island chain that adds 'crowded' to 'big, perfect, heavy'.

But Nias isn't only Lagundri – there are some secrets wrapped around the island – and even at that fabled palm-backed right-hander, no matter the crowd, the cream will always rise to the top, and then swiftly descend below sea level courtesy of the biggest and baddest molten-ocean thundering tube steaks with more lip than a Jolie-Wildenstein love child. Brian Biemann takes the stage.

"[When I heard about the swell] I got pretty



excited, but no one seemed to be able to stay, so I decided to pass on it and head home. But, while sitting in the airport in Medan (Sumatra), we got the text Nias was gonna go off and Alex Gray would be there, so I decided to go for it, and changed our tickets for Nias.

"The waves were really pumping, and us trying to get an exclusive with our guys was not gonna happen, so we headed to another wave close to Lagundri and managed to get shots without the other photogs, so it didn't go

all over the internet in 15 minutes.

"The surfers took some beatings. At our other location, there were some good kick-ass waves – one surfer had to walk on the reef through the inside and was hit by a wave that knocked him down, then washed him down a hole in the reef and sucked him through a tunnel that came up about 20 metres farther down the reef. How scary is that shit! In my opinion, Matt [Bromley] got the biggest paddle in of the session, maybe the biggest one of the swell, anywhere in Indo. We'll see."

Riley Laing was out there and he continues, "The sets were coming in in groups of two, sometimes three, but there were times when we were waiting over 20 minutes for a set to come through. The biggest waves would normally come in at around 9am, and they were a solid eight-foot – so you would be hoping that you were next in line for a set around that time. The swell lasted for three days, which was good 'cause I was surfed-out by that time from doing the SL Hot 100 trip prior."



TELO ISLANDS

INDONESIA

FROM DREAMY BOMBS
TO BROKEN BONES

Dan Corbett has been working at the Telo Island Lodge over the past few years, in and out, and had been back on deck for about a month when this swell slowly started to build. As we all know, it was full of anticipation – forecasters and media had seen it a long way out, and as Dan says, “Every Tom, Dick and Harry was talking about it.” Lucky for the boys in the Telos, they were remote enough to cut themselves off from the internet, lock themselves out of the hype and stay away from the media hounds.

“We all woke up on the Saturday to see that there were a few bombs around, and to be honest I didn’t think it was that big, but Jared Neal and I jumped in a boat and went on the search to find the best waves Telos could offer us. Luckily, and oddly, the islands weren’t crowded at all. We surfed at different breaks all day long and there was nobody around – the most I surfed with that day was four other surfers.

“There were two stand-out sessions. The first was surfing at a place we call DC’s, which is a right-hand barrel that has a couple of tube sections. The best thing about the break is that not many people surf it, because it’s a pretty unforgiving wave. You definitely don’t want to

fall off too much because it’s shallow and sharp. So it was five of us out, sharing wave after perfect wave, having a laugh – everyone got a few epic ones, and it couldn’t have been a better session.

“The second session was surfing a bombie that I have been hunting since I’ve been in the Telos. I saw it two years ago on a big swell, but I haven’t seen it doing its thing for so long. It’s very consistent, but for it to be perfect you need no wind and a massive, clean swell. Jared and I were surfed out, but on the way back to Telo Lodge we saw the bombie going insane – every wave was spitting and it was in the big 15-20 foot range. I borrowed Twiggy Baker’s board that he had left at the Lodge, and it definitely helped me paddle into some bombs. I don’t think anyone had surfed the bombie yet, so I was pretty pumped to have scored such amazing waves out there by myself.

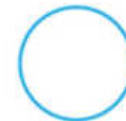
“I did tell the guys at the Lodge that my goal for the swell was to catch the biggest wave ever surfed in Telos, and I think I got pretty close. Unfortunately I was unlucky and broke my ankle in three spots, also dislocating it slightly on the day after the main day of the swell. But shit happens, I guess!”

COMING SOON...

KS - KOMUNITY SERIES
NAKED
patent pending
TRIPLE SWIVEL TECHNOLOGY

THE WORLD'S FIRST ELLIPTICAL URETHANE LEASH

The KS NAKED Triple Swivel leash is a revolution in conventional leash design. The elliptical shape of the high strength urethane has been designed to breach the water surface, once under speed or drag, then skip along the water like a pebble across a pond. This drastically reduces the leash's drag.



STANDARD LEASH



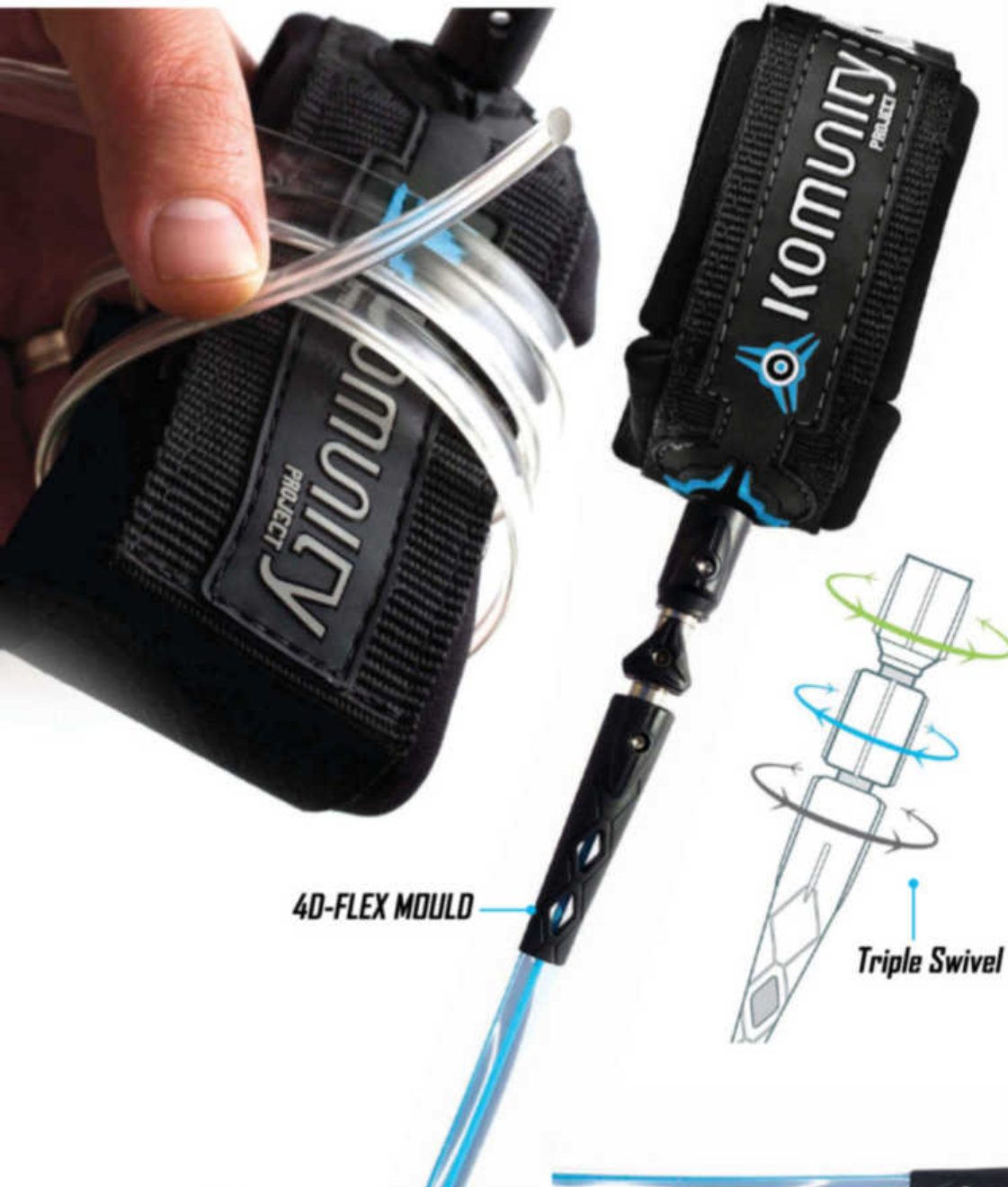
NAKED LEASH

The leash also features the patented Triple Swivel Technology which has been designed to reduce the spaghetti effect of conventional leashes.



ANKLE STRAP INNER LINING

Designed with silicon gel strips to maximize full grip to your ankle.



4D-FLEX MOULD

Triple Swivel



4D-FLEX MOULD

TRIPLE SWIVEL

Designed with the highest grade stainless steel material on the market. The Triple swivel is situated at both ankle strap and railsaver ends of the leash.

ELLIPTICAL URETHANE CORD

The elliptical shape of the high strength urethane (Bayer) has been designed to breach the surface, and skip across the water surface to create less drag.



FAR EAST

INDONESIA

OVER HYPED, BUT PUMPING

The whole of the Indian Ocean-facing Indonesian archipelago felt the sting of this swell, but the length of this island chain is so great that the extremities had rather different experiences. Far to the east lies an unnamed (by us) island, where an intrepid team of Latin American tube hunters sought out some suckers away from the maddening, droppening-innening hordes at the more well-known locales.

Here's what photographer Henrique Pinguim and Malole Surf House owner Diego Arrarte had to say about the fruits of their off-the-beaten-track adventures.

HENRIQUE: "As the day of my departure got closer, I was getting nervous, because all the websites were predicting it to be an XXL swell and I didn't want to miss it. From Brazil to Bali, the flight is huge, with at least four connections, and the only thing I could do was to watch the forecast when I was in airports with wifi."

DIEGO: "The swell was definitely over-hyped! It was just like any normal medium-to-big swell – it was nothing special at all. However, it did last for several days and hold the size, and there were some very nice waves for sure, but to call it the 'swell of the century', or even the decade, is a great overstatement – at least for this area. Swell of the season so far, yes, but we've had quite a bad season so far."

"I believe the media changed the vibe, for sure. We were all expecting this super incredible, extraordinary swell – 10-to-12-feet, maybe biggest ever – 15? 20? We did not get that. We got some amazing surf at six-to-eight-feet. We would have enjoyed it a lot more if we were not expecting the 'swell of the decade'."

HENRIQUE: "The session of the swell was at one of the lesser-surfed waves. After surfing three days at other spots, we decided to check the wave, even with the wrong wind. When we got there we started screaming to each other because the wave was on fire with a cross-shore wind that was lifting the exit of the barrel. Six-to-eight-foot with wide barrels, finishing over a super-hollow reef. It was perfect, and just for us. It was only me and Caio Faria, and the surfers Alex Chacon and Marco Giorgi. We couldn't decide who got the best wave, because they both got some heavy barrels. There were three long barrels on each wave."

THE SWELL THAT SMASHED THE WORLD





Jay Phillips :: swilly



ZEPHYR - Matt Raven City Print
Hand Made acetate frame/6 base CR-39 lens



SIN
eyewear

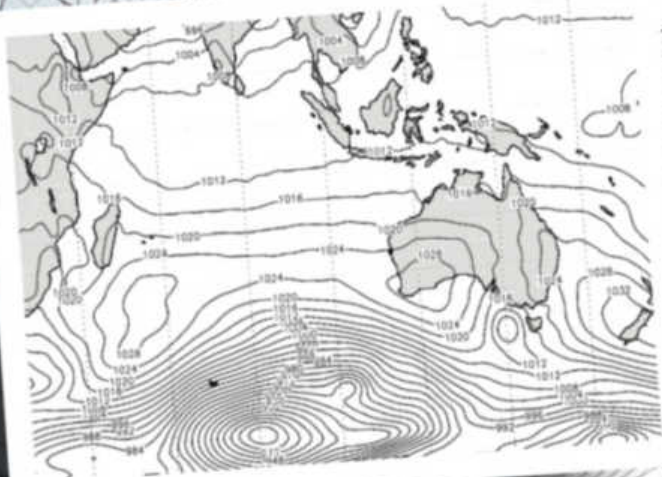
sineyewear.com.au



Around the same time as the entire length of Indonesia was pumping, the storm moved east and some secretive, secluded, shallow slabs around the bottom of Australia started doing this.
PHOTO: SHANE SMITH



BLOODY HELL! v2.0



Still basically filling an entire ocean, the storm shifts past Heard Island and into its next phase: propagation. Storms like this one carry so much energy in the wind band that they can act like ocean swells themselves, pushing forward and developing smaller leading-edge storms along the front edge of the winds. You can see that happening with that little bump in the isobars directly south of Sumatra. The effect on the fetch in this case is to stretch it out along its east-west axis, opening southern and south-western Australia to its swell energy. The further east you were along this coastal stretch, the more drawn-out the swell event, which points to another trippy thing about megastorm swell generation: Longer-period swells move a lot quicker than their lower-period cousins, so the further away from the fetch you happen to be, the longer it takes for the whole swell to arrive. At the fetch's back end, you can see a tightening of the winds and a further turn to the SW, creating another swell pulse which lit up far east Indo an absolute treat. That's a surf zone of perfect reefs but inconsistent swell exposure; anyone who was up there on this swell won't forget it in a hurry.

DEEP SOUTH

PART ONE

PERFECTION OVER SIZE

Big sharks, bigger waves, cold water, colder receptions from locals. This part of the world isn't too friendly at the best of times, but when a storm and swell of this magnitude rounds the south-west of Australia and ramps up a couple of notches in the Great Southern Ocean, it becomes downright scary. That is, to all but a few hardy, prepared and slightly loony individuals that call this part of the world home, as photographer Shane Smith explains.

"Only a small handful of local guys were out here on this swell. Pete Tomlinson was on a new 7'6" Webster board with a heap more meat in it and he had no problem getting into these things and holding his line. Camel came out as well and was riding a similar board to Pete, from memory, but a tad longer. It's always great to watch guys on their backhand at this spot, especially Camel.

"You couldn't avoid the hype for this swell, even down here. Social media blew up in anticipation of it and TV stations made some absurd claims when it eventually hit. We hit this spot on the first day of the swell window. We could have gone to places that were bigger, however bigger isn't always best. It's hard to knock back eight-foot perfection.

"In all honesty, there have been bigger and better swells, but just not for the length of time that this one stuck around for. Every day was basically a carbon copy of the one before: solid swell, light offshores and sunshine. This was shot on the first day of the swell; the period was up but the size wasn't quite there yet. It wasn't lully, which can occur with these large period swells, but there were definitely a few bombs that went unriden, just for the fact that they would come out of nowhere. But it was as perfect as it gets for this spot. Sure, there were bigger waves and heftier slabs, but what Pete and I chose to do was chase the perfection of this swell and not the size. When it comes down to it, why the fuck would I want three other guys shooting over my shoulder and why would Pete want to surf with a dozen other guys in the water, plus skis, when we had this spot with just a few out?"







LUKE GREAVES

DEEP SOUTH

PART TWO

PRIORITY NUMBER ONE

Heath Joske has created a life for himself that's surrounded, motivated and powered by the ocean. Now residing a reasonably long distance from his original home of Valla Beach on the NSW Mid-North Coast, his new home draws a lot of similarities to his birthplace... it's quiet, laidback and features a bountiful ocean, not only with sea life but with plenty of amazing waves... just, well, a tad larger than what you'll normally find at Valla, especially in a swell of this magnitude.

"I was on my two-week break between prawn-boat trips, and when I'm on land, not surfing is my number one priority. This swell just made me stop everything else in my life for a week. There's not much else to do out here, so if it's good, you just surf.

"Camel keeps a pretty close eye on things around these parts and was onto it pretty early. I actually thought he might be over-frothing, but a couple days later the instaweb was going berserk with *swell of the century* calls. That's when I began to get a little bit worried. Then, a few days out, heaps of crew around town were talking about it and big boards and jet skis started blocking the roundabout the day before it hit!

"This was the second day of the swell and it was an all-day affair; the first and third days were five-hour sessions. Then, when the swell dropped, another option, spear's throw from home (200kms) opened up for three consecutive all-day sessions. I probably spent more time in the water that week than any other week in my life! No broken boards or injuries, just sweet memories! The only thing I would probably do differently next time is shove some Snickers down my wettie's arms for a sugar hit!"





SURF COAST

VICTORIA

WHILE THE SUN SHINES

When the Surf Coast points are on, they do justice to every little bit of nostalgia and hyperbole that's usually slung their way. And sure, that delicious cluster of long right-hand reefs may usually be a bit on the chubby side, but what they lack in their ability to tube you silly is made up for by a perfect canvas that ranges from incredibly fun to, occasionally, pretty damn epic. To experience that, you probably need to be around Torquay in winter, and when you see the real life version of what Steve Ryan has shot here, the face-melting cold will suddenly be the last thing on your mind. That is, until your first duck dive, at which point we'd be impressed if there was anything at all on your mind.

"I was tracking this swell from a navy website, so I knew it was coming from almost a week out. Typical of winter down here, there was a lot of swell leading up to this day. I actually left to visit a sick relative in Tassie when it was supposed to be six-to eight-foot, but I'm glad I went. Family comes first, and thankfully the best was still to come!

"When I got back I heard mixed reports of what I missed. A few people who know what it's like to miss out kind of talked it down, but then others would say, *Oh it wasn't too bad* with a cheeky glint in their eyes. Then Sunday came around – it started off bright and sunny, with a light offshore wind and a straight six-foot swell with bigger sets around eight-foot. It definitely looked like we were in for one of the better days of the year.

"I went straight down to Bells – the carparks were pretty full, but it was a pretty standard crowd out in the water. When the bigger sets came in there was a lot of sea spray in the air, so, needing a bit of elevation to get a shot, I took up a spot on the stairs. It seemed like the swell was at its biggest from 9am to about 1pm, but it was actually just pumping all day! Most sets looked to have about five waves in them, which is pretty much standard for this coast. Everybody said the swell had a lot of punch in it, too – there were a few pretty good wipeouts.

"After lunch I headed over to Winki, shot it from a couple of angles, and just ended up staying 'til dark because it was so good. I finished up on the old helipad, where a bunch of the locals were drinking beers and kicking back. Unsurprisingly, everybody had a grin on their face."



TASMANIA

GREAT SOUTHERN SAND

The swell kept on giving. It ground and wound around the south coast of Australia before slinging its malevolent wares toward the Apple Isle. The Tassie crew had watched the West Oz boys dipping their snouts and frenetically worried when it'd be their turn at the trough of triumph and tragedy.

All too often this oft-harassed collection of rock and gum tree is left out of the game, lashed by winds that'd make a two-foot beachie perilous – let alone a million-foot rock reef. Honorary Tassie Boy Sandy Ryan was on hand.

"From what I saw and heard, it would have to be the most hyped swell of the modern era, but I think saying something is over-hyped is kind of negative. Maybe it's more a case of previous monumental swells have been under-hyped? The 'biggest ever' calls were a bit weird though, I thought.

"The media coverage of the swell in West Oz and Indo seemed to attract a lot of guys to the prime locations at those places, which allowed places like Shippies to be fairly uncrowded, which led to heaps of waves and a great vibe. Not that there is ever a bad vibe down there, coz the wave is rad and the locals are epic guys who go super hard.

"The first day the swell arrived was actually my birthday, and we surfed this crazy beachie which had barrels all over the place. I'd heard all about it from the boys but never surfed it, so it was such a treat."

Photographer Andrew Chisholm picks up the report.

"I was kinda sulking because I wanted to get a crew keen for Shippies, but I do have to admit that the winds would have been funny for there. If winds were better there are a couple of places that I'd have loved to check out, but getting to them is so hard. The lads here chase it pretty hard, and this winter has been pretty much smoking. We just all always dream of the perfect days."

In the end, the lure of Shippies proved to be too tempting for Sandy, and before the swell was done he'd had his wallow.

"The difference between this swell and others at Shipsterns was that it was quite hard to see sets coming. Quite often I was relaxing on the ledge and would drift over a small one to see an unexpected huge set starting to draw that I had to scratch for my life to get over or through. It's such a relief once you realise that you are going to make it over and you can afford to sneak a look at how your mate is going after being whipped in. The swell lasted longer than any other that I had been a part of. Also, I have never surfed 'Stern as much in as short a timeframe as I did during those days."



SHARKBANZ

MAGNETIC SHARK REPELLENT

VISIT
SHARKBANZ.COM.AU
TO LEARN MORE



NO BATTERY



AGES 5+



UNIVERSAL FIT



MAGNETIC TECH



DEPTH RATING



DURABLE & SECURE



WRIST & ANKLE



FOR THE OCEAN



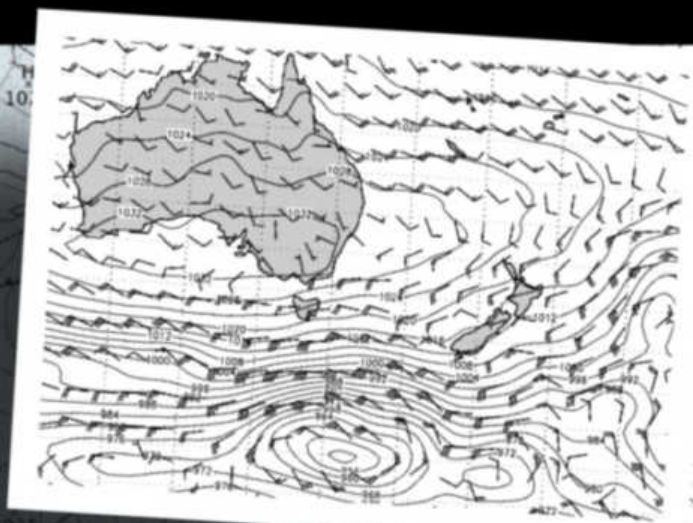
You Tube

@SHARKBANZ



The distance travelled by a swell of this magnitude is impressive but even more so when you consider the amount of different countries and climates it impacts. Here, the swell returns to warm water, and feels out the reef at Cloudbreak.
PHOTO: TOM SERVAIS

BENT BUT NOT BROKEN



Three thousand nautical miles further east, the storm has fractured as it passes south of Australia, but is still muscly enough at around 950hP to blow swell up toward Fiji and New Zealand. A full propagation has occurred and the centre of the low you can see here just SSE of Tasmania is actually an offspring of the little bump you saw in the isobars on the last map – in effect, a storm spawned by a storm. By this time it's fully hammered the entire southern coastline of Australia from Denmark to eastern Victoria, and is in the process of re-gathering a certain amount of force as it edges toward open Pacific waters east of New Zealand. This map is a bit more detailed and you can see wind barbs circling the low; the 'feathers' hanging off each barb indicate wind speed: long ones indicating 10 knots each and short ones five knots, while the barbs themselves indicate wind direction. You'll see quite a few barbs holding four-and-a-half feathers, which translates to 45 knots, which is enough wind to generate a 17 to 20 second interval groundswell. How far will such a swell travel? Check the next map to find out.

DEPOT BOMMIE

SOUTH COAST NSW

A FICKLE MISTRESS

While New South Wales' magnificent south coast holds one of the best mixed bags in Australian surfing, a lot of the time, there isn't much in the way of friendly, protected pointbreaks for swells of any consequence to wrap into. It's more likely that those swells will lurch violently out of deep water, straight onto shallow rock shelves and patches of reef. This creates plenty of waves that most people want nothing to do with, but it also breeds a type of surfer who craves nothing else. As a photographer, knowing lunatics willing to put themselves in compromising situations is a very good thing, and Ulladulla's Leroy Bellet knows how to take full advantage.

"Before the swell even arrived here it was pretty clear to see it was no hoax. The first I heard in person was from Benny Serrano about The Right; he was pretty ecstatic after his first session there and said the swell was definitely the real deal. We had three days from when it made landfall in WA to its arrival here. During that period I think everyone was fixed to their screens looking at all the Indian Ocean madness that was going on – I know I had a few sneaky tabs open in class. Every surf, weather and even mainstream media outlet was publishing dribs and drabs of content. It's almost a live feed for a swell like that, which is cool, but it means you know exactly what you're missing out on, plus it's definitely a compromise on presentation quality.

"The charts started looking pretty good for home: a long period and super-south swell with trademark winter winds from the south-west. I'd had my eye on a project shoot that needed these conditions for a few weeks prior to this swell's appearance on the charts, so that was where I set my focus.

"Now, Mr Benny Serrano, being the slab hunting, violin playing, kickboxing champion that he is, thought it would be cool to surf the swell on the east coast just to top off his week. He picked up some equipment for me in Sydney on his first day home, and the following day drove four hours in the dark to meet us (still in the dark) at 5am. Ten points for commitment, I say. We launched the ski and upon the sun's arrival, realised the swell hadn't really kicked yet. We went in and headed a short drive down the coast (a decision based upon the tide) to surf and shoot a well-known left-hand bommie.

"It looked small and messy from a distance, but as we arrived a freak wave, just one, unloaded onto the open ocean shelf, square and blue as could be, blowing straight into the channel. One-wave sets aren't a common thing here, so we knew something funky was at play. The boys got straight on the rope and had no luck for a good half hour. This particular shot was a good 45 minutes into the session, when Whip managed to snag a bit of a double-up that opened onto the inside ledge, letting him stand tall before releasing a huff of cool air and water all over him. The swell proceeded to offer a few good moments, but nothing too extraordinary. Then, in typical east coast fashion, the wind swung onshore – killing it completely. So much for swell of the decade, ay? Still, not a bad way to spend a day, and at least there was no one else out."







NEWCASTLE

NSW

MAGNETS,

HOW DO THEY WORK?

When one of these swells rounds the bottom of Australia and spins off into the Tasman Sea, just like the one in question, surfers on the east coast start to feel a little funny inside. Suddenly, after watching all of their friends/peers/pros/desert-warriors score endlessly for the past week, there's a chance that some of the energy will appear in their swell window. A little *ding!* chimes in their head, the tinder-match ding! There's a chance they'll be able to link up! There's a chance they'll score!

But that's just it; it's just a chance. More often than not, especially at this time of year, there's too much south, or south-west, in the swell direction than there is south-east. The storm morphs and shifts and points the swell predominantly parallel to the coast and, for the most part, it slides right on by. East coast Australian surfers sit at their beach lookout of choice, forlornly gazing at the horizon as the swell marches north, barely registering a blip on their local. Maybe, on one of the days of swell, there's one- to two-foot of



swell lines, every half an hour... indicating that brief moment in time where the fetch became slightly more favourable, or the period was high enough to refract one of the larger sets into their location of choice. Not worth suiting up, though. Not worth the wait.

It's a pretty upsetting situation for east coast dwellers, especially those with their fingers on the pulse, like Surfing Life's good mate Shieldsy, who'll be pacing back and forth, chewing his fingernails to the cuticles, desperately trying to

find a reasonable last minute flight to Fiji, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, the Barrier Reef... argh, anywhere but the Gold Coast! Very upsetting, indeed.

That is, unless you find yourself perched at a magnet. One of those locations that, due to its predominantly south-facing direction, its easterly-jutting location, or its offshore bathymetry, that manages to helpfully scoop up those swells with longer, deeper periods and channel them into the awaiting bank/reef/point.

The Hunter Region is somewhere just like this. There's something about this stretch of coast that, on significant south swell events, manages to grab and use the available energy and turn it into surfable waves. It can be pumping on the Hunter stretch while Sydneysiders and those further up the coast sit idly by, twiddling their frustrated thumbs. It might only last a couple of hours, but when all the factors align, if you're onto the local banks, it's a couple of hours well spent.

NORTH ISLAND

NEW ZEALAND

Now it was the Pacific's turn to taste this global swell phenomena, with New Zealand's west coasts getting a nice little sample of the same storm energy that crew had enjoyed from Africa to Tassie.

Photographer Craig Evers took his chance at a fickle, long left-hander in the north of the North Island.

"That giant, furry, ferocious blob spinning away in the roaring forties was impossible to miss. A week out it was all the chat with the crew. Everyone watched it hit Indo, then WA, and then it was our turn.

"It was amazing to visually track the swell from different ocean regions. I think we were all well conversant in the images and clips that were popping up while we waited our turn. The

concern was, of course, that the intensity of the storm just couldn't last; would it make it all the way to NZ?

"The outermost point was the cleanest, but when it's this big you're on a giant seven-kilometre conveyor belt – you can't really sit a section and session it. A part of the reef will come on for three or four sets, then the next sets will light up another part of the reef. You just take off and hope your wave will hit that part of the reef well. It ends up being a completely different approach – you don't really remember turns you've done; you just remember those couple of leg burners that you made past three bays.

"It was super cool that Joel Fitzgerald identified the swell and bootlegged over for it; I saw him swoop and carve some big sections. But I think

some of the most notable rides have to go to Andre Newth – he played the shrewd game and stuck to the inner points that were more perfect. He locked in three rides over a kilometre-long each, and a top speed of 56km/h on his watch. When we stopped for a chat he was beaming like a schoolboy with unlimited broadband and probably just as weak at the knees.

"There was a lot of chat and speculation before the swell hit that it was such a long period that the sets would be very lully. That was the expectation. How wrong we were – the swell was incredibly stacked and consistent. There was very little lag between sets, the swell really pushed!

"To track it through the oceans, to pre-empt it in the far north, and it not be a fizzer, well, it's a blessed life."

We make surf travel easy for you...

...and we guarantee the **best** price.

the perfect wave
surf experience

theperfectwave.com.au 1300 009 283

 TOM SERVAIS

CLOUDBREAK ^{FIJI}

A RETURN TO THE TROPICS

When swells of this nature round the bottom of Australia and start flaring up in the Tasman Sea, apart from a couple of lucky crews situated in those south swell magnets from the pages previous, the majority of east coast Australian surfers are destined to sit, antsy, annoyed and irritated as they watch the perfectly groomed lines march their way up the coast, far on the horizon, bound for more south-facing coasts. Photographer Tom Servais was hanging out on such a coast for a few weeks, half his luck!

"I was on Tavarua waiting for it. I had been there for the events a few weeks earlier and was still hanging around when this showed up on the maps, so we knew it was coming. It was downgraded slightly as it approached, but what I noticed about this swell in particular was the super-long interval. Although there were only a couple of waves in each set, it lasted for a full four days. There were some really great waves ridden, with A+ waves on all four days, the Wednesday through to the Saturday, with a big crew including Danny Fuller, Reef McIntosh, Makua Rothman, Balaram Stack, Albee Layer, Paige Alms, Ricky Whitlock and the man of the moment here, Dane Gudauskas."

THE SWELL THAT SMASHED THE WORLD





WAIDROKA Bay RESORT

PURE FUN

FIJI SURFING
AT ITS BEST

8 BREAKS
NO CROWDS

www.waidroka.com



GREAT VALUE FIJI PACKAGES



FRIGATES



FRIGATES BARRELS



SERUA



PIPE



J's



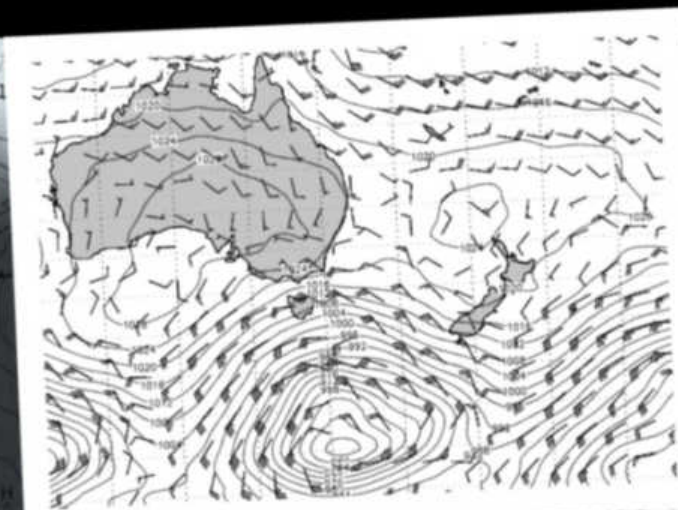
SHIFTIES

E-MAIL: RESERVATIONS@WAIDROKA.COM

One man turns his back on Puerto's party strip and bolts out to sample a swell that, by now, has travelled more than half way around the world.
PHOTO: LUCANO HINKLE



THE FINAL SURGE



The leading edge of the fractured storm, now split into two separate lows, gets past NZ and regroups with a brief injection of new extra-tropical moisture, turning the fetch fully south-west. Swell from this phase of the storm will scatter widely across the Pacific, hitting many of the South Pacific island chains, Hawaii, California, Mexico and Central America. (Bad luck for Tahiti: a cut-off low turned the local winds raging onshore, spoiling this swell on landfall.) Small pulses from the swell will eventually reach Alaska, 8000 nautical miles away. It's a pattern that's effectively as old as the universe itself – an energy source transmitting its presence across distance through a wave signal – the main difference between this signal and most others being that we've learned how to have a shitload of fun with it. Swells produced by storms like this had a far more practical use for the first human navigators of the Pacific; they used the subtle shifts caused in their double hulled canoes by the near-permanent south-west Pacific swell to guide them across the ocean. Steering by swell. That's how people got from Tahiti to Hawaii in the first place – and that, in essence, is why we surf today. Think of that next time one of these storms blows a set wave your way.

NICARAGUA

CENTRAL AMERICA

BARRELS OF RUM, BARRELS OF FUN

Nicaragua's a paradise of cheap rum and regatton booties that almost always blows offshore, thanks to a freshwater lake that takes up most of the country's interior (and is filled with freshwater bull sharks). There are waves all over the country, only crowded in a few spots, completely empty in others, usually fun, sometimes bigger than fun, and given that it's located in Central America it cops swell from the North Pacific, during the Northern Hemisphere winter, and from the South Pacific, during ours. Enter, the swell of millennia. Paradise.

By the time the swells from the South Pacific get to Nica they've had a chunk of time to sort themselves out and settle themselves down. As wild and unruly as these storms were at their centre, up around Nica way they're organised and friendly, if not loaded full of wallop. Constantly offshore groomed lines in the day, rum drenched booty claps in the PM. Paradise.

The Central American surf trip is becoming more and more ubiquitous for Australian surfers, as Indo loses its intrepidity and we seek new kicks to go with our liquid tunnels. But while Mexico is grand, it's also Indo for Seppos, and Belize has nothing, and Guatemala barely more. That leaves kinda dangerous El Salvador, crowded Costa Rica, spread out Panama, and Nica.

Finding waves in Nicaragua is easy, just go to San Juan Del Sur and ask absolutely anybody, or go further off the beaten track and get something sort of to yourself. Go whenever, because it's pumping usually, or better still, try and sync your arrival with one of these swells, because, well, just bloody look at it.





PUERTO ESCONDIDO

MEXICO

As we've discussed before, only a couple of issues ago in this very magazine, Puerto Escondido is a funny place: it's a busy, bustling, high-profile surf town where punters will pitch up for the season, pros will fly in for hyped-up swells, and pro-hos will hang year-round, waiting out for the latter, but ending up with the former. It's hot, it's crowded, and the temptation to party is all too real... as are the tremendous beatings you cop if you try to surf hungover. It's never a great surprise that the local guys score the best of it when it's on, especially during a sneaky, long-range south swell being channelled to the least popular bank on the beach, as photographer Lucano Hinkle explains.

"This swell didn't seem as popular as usual for most of the people in town. For some reason, perhaps due to the distance the swell had travelled and the direction it came from, it was breaking more towards Farbar (the stretch of sand between Puerto Central and the southern end of the beach where La Punta is located – Ed). The best thing about this, however, was that down that way there were some really sick waves with barely any people! Whoever was in town when this swell hit, and kept an eye on the end of the beach where Farbar is located, really scored! Some Puerto Ricans and Peruvians who were in town got some really good waves, as well as Mexican locals, of course; guys like Diego Cadena and Oscar Moncada."





TONY HEFF

KEWALOS

OAHU

THE RIGHT SIDE OF TOWN

Hawaii is paradise year-round, and it's the type of paradise that doesn't discriminate, whether you're a group of 40-somethings who just want to sink Mai Tais by the pool, or a pack of salty shred-dogs relying on the ocean to come to the party, too. In winter you'll have the entire seven-mile miracle (and more!) lighting up every time the North Pacific hiccups, and in summer, quality south swells pour into Town via New Zealand and Tahiti. Local shooter Tony Heff captures it all, year round, so we thought we'd allow him to shine a little bit of light on what Indonesia's century swell was doing by the time it finally reached Oahu.

"This summer was the best I've seen in a few years. It seemed like there weren't any flat spells and we had some days at Ala Moana Bowls that were just all-time. This swell in particular had been on my radar for about a week or more; I knew I had to cover the Rip Curl Grom Search, so it was good to see Surfline predict a two-to-four-foot (Hawaiian) swell.

"After they called the contest on I got in the spot at Kewalos bright and early and shot pretty much all day long. There weren't really any dull moments. That place is like a little skatepark, and the size was perfect for the lefts and rights. Since it was an all-day contest, I kept track of the heat sheets and planned to be in a good spot for the key heats. The kids were ripping it up – little air sections on the rights and four or five turns on the lefts.

"I did my usual thing and kept moving around to get a good mix of pulled-back shots, tighter angles, water shots, line-ups and lifestyles. It was great to have a nice sized, consistent swell, because when it's slow and weak it can make for a really long day.

It's always awesome to see the next crop of groms tear it up, though. I'm perpetually impressed with how, these days, progression seems to be in fast forward. In general, it wasn't too crowded around Town, either. We've been blessed with back-to-back swells since late May/early June, so by July most of the avid Townies seemed satiated."

THE SWELL THAT SMASHED THE WORLD



THE WEDGE

NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

THE WAITING GAME

This swell had to cover the entire Indian Ocean, lighting up Western Australia and Indo, before it pushed into the Tasman Sea and began trucking towards Fiji – only then did California have a glimmer of hope that its coastline would reap any benefits.

“On the one hand, the whole world knew about this swell,” says local Huntington Beach photographer Benjamin Ginsberg. “On the other, not many paid attention to the trailing portion, which reached us here in Southern California. That is, except for us locals.

“There was more hope than hype over here. By slipping inside New Zealand and aiming towards Fiji, the swell never really focused on California, and it took over two weeks to cross the Indian and the Pacific. We had a relatively slow June, so everyone was amping for waves, but at the same time everyone was still ogling photos from Fiji, Margaret’s and Padang. By the time the swell reached California it’d lost a lot of its energy, and hopes of our own XL sessions were all but gone. A lot of surfers just went to work, and there wasn’t much coverage of the swell.

“But on Friday morning it filled it, and it stuck through till late Saturday. The biggest waves were ridden the first day, but the best shape was the second morning. The Wedge in Newport Beach is primarily a refracting peak throwing over into a closeout barrel in knee-high water. But with the shorter period and more westerly direction, there weren’t really solid barrels to pull into on that first day – a lot of guys followed local Bobby Okvist’s lead and launched themselves into the air after the initial drop.

“But even though it wasn’t maxing out, it was still incredibly dangerous. Frankly, anytime at The Wedge is dangerous. It’s a large, heavy, shallow, shore-breaking wave. It’s amazing that more people don’t get hurt. I guess the reason being is that the vast majority of the local crew are true watermen – to handle The Wedge, they kinda have to be.

“It’s funny. I’m fascinated by the propagation of waves. Our best surf in California often travels huge distances to reach us – from across the Bering Sea to Maverick’s and down the coast to Blacks in San Diego, before reaching Baja in the winter – or around New Zealand and across the Pacific to spots like Cardiff, The Wedge or Malibu in the summer. This certainly wasn’t the largest swell we’ve seen at The Wedge, but the fact that we can trace it back to the same code red swell, more than 10,000 miles away, before finally reaching California... that’s definitely left its mark.

“All in all, this swell, here in California... it can be summed up in three words... a waiting game.”





THE SWELL THAT SMASHED THE WORLD



WHAT'S NEXT?

AS ALWAYS, MORE....

The great storm of the 2015 winter solstice didn't just blow up about 80,000 kilometres of global coastline. It didn't just break boards, brains, bones, and surf forecast records. It also marked a weird, yet recurrent climatic turning point. From July this year the world stepped into what looks like turning into the strongest El Niño event for many years. Typhoons began flaring toward the Philippines, Taiwan and Japan and smashing the shit out of mainland China, lighting up waves we've never seen in pics or real life. As the year goes on, abnormally warm water will flood into mid-Pacific, bringing tropical cyclones to Tahiti and bigger and bigger winter surf to Hawaii and California. And at some point during all this, the odds are good that a storm looking a lot like this one in reverse will surge down out of Siberia and into the North Pacific and explode. Will Eddie go? Will someone paddle 80-foot Cortes Bank? Will some kid on a north-facing atoll reef out there somewhere get more barrelled than any surfer in history? We don't have a goddamn clue. We do, however, know we can count on the one thing all surfers have always counted on and always will: There's more waves on the way. 🐻



WHITE

HORSES

SURF DISPLAY TEAM

WhiteHorses

IT'S A BOOK. IT'S A MAG.
IT'S WEIRD ... GOOD WEIRD
CREATIVITY, ADVENTURE, SURF & THE OCEAN
*CONTAINS LESS BEARDS THAN THIS ILLUSTRATION WOULD LEAD YOU TO BELIEVE

WWW.WHITEHORSES.COM.AU // ART BY SIMON RIVIERE

TECH GUIDE

WHILE WE'RE WAITING FOR THE WATERSHED

Technology advances at an exponential rate. We see more progression yearly than our ancestors saw in a decade and their ancestors saw in a century. Looking forward into the future, old us will be far more befuddled by the technology of the day than your grandma is baffled by smartphones and Tinder.

But, for a while, the technology in surf has stayed relatively stagnant. There have been spikes here and there – new surfboard construction, the advent of the removable fin systems – as well as incremental

advances in general surf wares, especially seen in the world of wetsuits (back zip anybody?). But surfing hasn't had a watershed moment in a while. Surfing's internet hasn't yet been invented; we haven't yet conjured up the shredding equivalent of the nuclear bomb.

But we're getting close. Surfing's beginning to change in ways that we can't possibly predict (if we could we'd be instigating the change ourselves) – Wavepools are becoming feasible in both quality and profitability, meaning that expert surfers will

soon spring from landlocked places; Japanese surfers are winning the US Open, Brazilians the World Title.

The products contained in this guide represent some of the biggest and latest advances in surf technology. They aren't surfing's microwave oven, nor its steam engine, but they will make your surfing life more fruitful, assist you in your perpetual quest to perform better than your buddy Gary, and maybe, just maybe, save your life.

Get out of the Delorean, pals, the future is now.



LILY

CAMERA DRONE, REINVENTED
\$US719

You've probably seen the promo video for Lily that's done the viral-rounds in recent months. You probably thought, just like the Lexus Hoverboard clip and the faux-BBC Penguin Flight video, that it was all a too-good-to-be-true hoax and that we're always destined to make one of our nerdier friends pilot drones above our heads until the end of time. Well, luckily for all of us – and the Lily owners' soon-to-be-overflowing bank accounts – that damn video was real! The description of Lily is something out of a dystopian near future: no setup required, whack a sensor in your pocket/on your body, throw Lily in the air and she follows you. Everywhere. No controller, no wires. Lily flies above and around you and captures your every move in HD 1080p at 60fps, slow-motion 720p at 120fps or 12mb

still. Lily's body is completely sealed and her motors are insulated. She fits easily in any backpack, handles high winds and floats, so you can land her in the water! What a functional babe! Lily Mk.1 has a two-hour charge time and 20 minutes of flight time. Now, you might be thinking, *What the hell!? She's not going to nail all my clips from my three-hour marathon session!?* But you can bank on Moore's Law – the reliability that the world's maximum computing power doubles every two years – and that in no time Lily will be hovering above your head until whatever time you damn well want to come in. And, did we mention, **THIS IS A DRONE THAT FLIES ITSELF AND FOLLOWS YOU AROUND THE LINE-UP**, so quit whinging, grom! Pre-order now. We have. lily.camera

HOUSE OF MARLEY

CHANT BT SPORT
\$149.95

Surfing and music go hand-in-hand. Tell me that you don't always have a song stuck in your head when you're out in the water. Tell me that you don't have the stereo blaring on your way to check the waves. Tell me when you hear a track from your favourite

surf movie on the radio you don't instantly think of the clip it accompanies. Hell, the first time I pulled up to surf Macaronis, I couldn't get Taj's Titan-track out of my head from his Maccas section in Waves' seminal Seven Days Seven Slaves. OK, OK, maybe I'm just a music geek. But I swear your surfing life is made better by your favourite music. This is why The House of Marley has created the Chant BT Sport, to fully integrate your favourite tunes into your favourite pastime. With bigger and bolder sonic strength than the standard Chant BT, it works with any Bluetooth® enabled device and many more through the auxiliary input. The Sport has a double pairing feature with two units for true stereo sound, a built-in microphone for use as a speakerphone, it provides up to eight hours of continuous, wireless play and fits in most cup holders or water bottle cages. And, for when you're getting up to some really gnarly shit, it's water-resistant, floats and has a carabiner clip. The Chant BT Sport is the most effective tool on the market to immerse your favourite music into your surfing life... in the car, on the beach, on the boat, hell, in the water! Take it with you everywhere, and build your own wall of sound. thehouseofmarley.com.au



NIXON ULTRATIDE \$399.99

Imagine having a little pocket-size, personal surf-assistant by your side at all times; scouring the conditions, cross-checking swells, winds, tides and the weather. He'd take all the leg-work out of monitoring what the surf is doing, and then would let you know when any number of your favourite locations are pumping. His sole job would be making sure you drop everything and go and get tubed. How good would that be!? Well, imagine no further! Say hello to the Nixon Ultratide, your new best bud. Truly an innovation in watch technology, the Ultratide launches Nixon's exclusive partnership with the best damn surf forecasters in the world, the originals, Surfline, and is the product of extensive research and development over the past couple of years. Featuring Bluetooth® wireless technology, the Ultratide provides you with real time data, direct to your wrist, including wave height, swell direction, wind direction and speed, water and air temperatures, Surfline ratings, and custom Surf Alerts based on your selected surf spots. The Ultratide provides you with 10 live data points of forecast details for any number of selected surf spots from the entire Surfline network of spots – over 3300 and growing. You can set up custom alerts for each spot, based on your preferences at those spots, and the Ultratide will make sure you never miss an epic session again. After you've scored, you can record, rate and share your sessions with your friends on social media. The more you use the Ultratide, the more it understands your surf spots, and your preferences at those surf spots, and the more chance it will give you to get epic waves. If that's not all impressive enough, it's waterproof down to 100m and is 100 per cent battery-powered – meaning you never need to plug in and recharge it. The battery is designed to last 1-2 years, depending on usage, and will be replaced for the watch's lifetime, for free, by Nixon. Considering nearly all other smart watches in the market require recharging via USB cables, this is pretty impressive. Now all we need is for someone to come up with a little personal assistant like this that can also whip up a mean bacon, eggs and cappuccino before you get wet and we'll be laughing!

nixon.com



TRACE ACTION SPORTS TRACKER \$199.99

If you're anything like us, during the Australian Open of Surfing earlier this year, you were watching the heat recaps and the expressions sessions and thinking, *What on earth are these crazy numbers and figures all over the screen and how in the world are they generating them all!? Well, the answer was, and is, the Trace Action Sports Tracker.* While not a wearable tech like some similar products on the market, by simply placing the Tracker on your board, it measures your speed, distance, paddling, the degree of your turns, calories burned and even air height. When you're finished, you simply sync the Tracker to the app, available on all devices across all brands, and store your data based on your session. The Trace will automatically pull out session highlights, based on your stats. There's also another pretty wildly awesome and super-tech aspect of the Trace: it will auto-edit all of your GoPro footage without you having to lift a finger! No more abandoned SD cards with hours of footage, or abandoned highlight reels that you never got to. Trace automatically identifies your highlights, colour corrects the clips and overlays stats on top of your video – sharing your highlights, and utilising an effective training tool, never got easier. Some of the best surfers in the world, guys like Jordy Smith, are on board, and some of the most tech-savvy surf brands, like Futures, are backing the tech in their surfing and product development. With endorsement like that, we think you'd be kind of silly to not give it a shot yourself. Would you say no to Jordy Smith? The guy's huge!

traceup.com



RIP CURL SEARCH GPS WATCH \$499.99

Everyone has one of those 'mates' who'll try and one-up you before, during and after a surf. *Maaaate, did you see that last wave of mine!? I was going sooo fast! I think it was the longest wave I have ever had! Waaaay longer than your last one!* And all you can do is smile and nod and shake your head and think, what a wanker! Well, thankfully, Rip Curl has come to the market with something that's stopping all the wankers in their tracks, or creating new ones, depending on how you look at it. Finally, definite proof that you surf better, harder, faster and longer than your shitty mate, Gary. Screw you, Gary! The Rip Curl Search GPS Watch tracks every one of your waves with assisted GPS, recording and storing your session's length, wave count, location, length of ride and top speed. Paired with the Rip Curl Search GPS App, you can begin to generate a logbook of your surf records, follow friends and pro surfers, create a club to keep up with everyone else's surfs or even set it up for an upcoming surf trip or competition. It gives you the ability to access your data across all of your devices, keeping your results private or sharing them all socially, so you can gloat at how much better you are than Gary. With one-touch auto-set for 1360 tide locations, 10 hours of GPS surf time, a fully rechargeable lithium-ion battery and waterproof to 100m, the Rip Curl Search GPS Watch is wearable technology that will change your surfing life for the better, providing insights into your surfing you never thought possible. Hell, even Editor Wade Davis reckons he clocked a 56km/h during a Kirra cyclone swell earlier in the year! But we reckon he forgot to press 'end surf' before he got in the car to drive home.

ripcurl.com.au

TECH GLIDE



SHARKBANZ

\$109.95

Sharks. Oh man, sharks. You can't open a newspaper, web browser or surf magazine without hearing about another attack, incident or encounter around our fair country of late. You can't mention you're a surfer in public without getting someone's unwanted opinion on the solution to the increasing shark activity. Surfing Life haven't surfed around Byron, Lennox or Ballina in the last six months because, well, we're kind of giant scaredy-cats, but also because you can't really argue with the statistics. So if there's a product that might reduce our chance of being approached and/or attacked by the ocean's best and most efficient killer, then we're pretty damn interested. Enter Sharkbanz. How do they work? Well, Sharkbanz employ special, patented magnetic technology. Most shark attacks occur in murky, shallow waters off the coast where there are a high number of swimmers and sharks sharing the same space. In this environment, sharks rely heavily on their electro-receptors instead of their eyes to 'see' what's around them. They possess the most sensitive electro-magnetic sense of all known animals, and use it to judge distance, shape, and even the heart rate of other animals near them. Most of the time, sharks get it right and leave people alone. Occasionally, they don't. Sometimes when relying on their electro-receptors, a curious shark may bite a person in order to figure out what he or she is. These unprovoked 'hit-and-run' attacks are the most common type, and unfortunately for a lot of people, being the alpha-predator of the ocean, it's often enough to lose a limb, or one's life. As sharks approach a person

wearing Sharkbanz, experiments have shown that the magnetic waves coming from the band disrupt electro-receptors and they quickly turn away. It's important for us to be honest about what Sharkbanz technology can and cannot do. Sharkbanz will reduce the risk of shark interactions, but there is no 100 per cent guarantee that interactions will not take place. This technology has been tested extensively on more than 10 of the most common predatory shark species that are responsible for the majority of 'hit-and-run' attacks, and Sharkbanz claims to be an excellent defence against these types of attacks. Great Whites are unique in that they are the only shark that acts as an ambush predator, attacking from a long distance at high speed. There is no effective way to prevent this type of ambush attack at present. However, many of the recent attacks, on the north coast of NSW at least, have been deemed investigatory attacks, not ambush attacks. Great Whites rely heavily on their electro-magnetic sense when swimming in open water, and Sharkbanz claims its product could effectively deter an investigating Great White. Now, Surfing Life aren't saying that the Sharkbanz will help you if you decide to go and surf on dusk at North Wall Ballina, with no one else around and a tuna strapped to your ankle. But obeying all the regular precautions and warning signs, as well as using Sharkbanz may provide the defence needed to deter an investigating shark and, importantly, provide some much-needed peace of mind, which is what we're chasing!

sharkbanz.com.au



KOMUNITY PROJECT

KS NAKED TRIPLE SWIVEL LEASH
\$59.95



No doubt you've seen your favourite surfers, either professionals or just the local shredder down the road, remove their leggings in small, weak surf and go HAM in the shore. Why? you wonder. Sure it removes their unsightly leggie-tan, and yeah it might improve their paddle fitness with every blown manoeuvre and ensuing swim to the beach, but the real reason, oh students of shred, is DRAG. You wouldn't think that, when holding a brand new leggie in your hand and feeling how light they are, that they could ever negatively impact on your surfing. But, at speed, in and under the wave's face, dragging behind you, they slow you down! It might only be just a little bit, but for good surfers, especially in smaller and weaker conditions, it's noticeable. And if there's one thing that you need to perform at your best in the water, it's speed, not drag. Now, Surfing Life will never endorse the non-usage of leggings in anything but a solo surf. No matter how much you think you're ripping, you're going to fall off at some stage, or you're not trying hard enough, and if there are other people in the water at the time, you and your board-cum-projectile-weapon are now a danger to them. Enter the Komunity Project KS Naked Triple Swivel Leggie. A re-evolution in leggie design, the KS Naked Triple Swivel's high-strength urethane is elliptical in shape. This shape is designed to breach the water's surface once under speed or drag – like a pebble across a pond or a boat getting up to planing speed. This skipping across the water's surface drastically reduces any drag experienced by the leggie and, in turn, increases the level of consistent speed able to be held by the surfer, resulting in increased performance. The KS Naked also features Komunity Project's patented Triple Swivel tech, meaning no more tangled spaghetti leggings being pulled out of your board bag. It's positives all round! Mmm-mmm spaghetti! komunityproject.com



ANDREW SHIELD / MIMI LAMONTAGNE

SURF LIKE BEYONCE

OR SO SAYS SNAPPER BOARDRIDER,
SHELDON SIMKUS.

Crouching tiger, hidden XXXX



LAST YEAR WE DID A SERIES OF PROFILES ON 'BOARDRIDER BATTLERS' FROM DIFFERENT CLUBS AROUND AUSTRALIA. We asked why they joined, what keeps 'em there, their greatest accomplishments... all those questions that go along with a profile.

This year, we decided to do something a bit different... So without further ado, meet part one (of six) of our annual Boardrider series, with a twist...

AS TOLD BY SHELDON SIMKUS OF THE SNAPPER BOARDRIDER CLUB:

WINNING: Awesome. Not only did we do it once, but we did it twice in a row. I was a part of both of those teams.

PRESSURE: Yeah. Not only are you surfing for yourself, but you're surfing for everyone on the team and everyone back home. It's cool, though.

BEST HEAT: In the Junior Teams Challenge, last year, we were actually undefeated. There were six surfers in the team and I was the last surfer – I got two nines and had the best heat of my year – and we got second.

WORST HEAT: The first time I got the call up for the Kirra Open Team Challenge. It was at pretty pumping Rainbow, and I thought, Oh yeah, this is easy, get a couple runners and do three turns a wave. But it was the worst. I kept trying to get barrelled and I wasn't making them, and I was getting twos and threes. It was the worst too because it was during cyclone season, and that time of year I surf the points all the time – I couldn't believe how bad I did.

FUNNIEST MOMENT: Straddie Assault. Two years ago. At the time, Snapper and DBah had this huge rivalry, and if Mitch Parko won his heat we'd win the whole competition. We thought he won; we chaired him up and stuff, and he mooned the DBah team from up on the hill at the main beach. And then they read out the scores, and he got second. They didn't let that go for at least six months – people were mooning him everywhere. He left the island that night, haha. He was pretty devastated.

MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT: Just having regular weekends where you all go down and get together and

have a comp. It doesn't even have to be good surf. It's just good to have that vibe, and for younger kids it keeps 'em out of trouble.

BIGGEST LEGEND: Rabbit Bartholomew and Darryl Parkinson (Joel's uncle). Darryl takes time off work all the time and we see him out behind the rock.

RIVALRY: Yeah, most of the people from DBah started at Snapper, or grew up at Snapper, and just want to be a part of this different club. That's why the rivalry exists. DBah isn't competitive, though – they're always just there to have a laugh and drink a beer, which is pretty cool. Snapper is pretty competitive. We're there to win.

BIGGEST GROM: Tom Parkinson. He's literally down there at Snapper all the time. He's Darryl's son, Mitch's brother. That whole family is classic.

CELEBRATIONS: After Boardriders Battle this year it was pretty funny, because a close friend of ours had a 21st birthday party. So we went straight from the airport to the party, and over half the team was there – everyone got together, and it was his birthday, but we were so stoked to have won for the second year. It was a great excuse to celebrate.

IF THE CLUB WERE A(N)...

ANIMAL: We're orange and brown, so... maybe a tiger?

FRUIT OR VEGETABLE:

Mango. I don't know. Ah, actually... yeah. Mango.

FEMALE POP STAR: Beyonce. For sure.

SONG: Snapper, Snapper, Snapper, RULES! Everyone screams it.

DRINK: XXXX Gold. Maybe Jim Beam. But let's go XXXX.

WORD: Awesome.

WWW.AUSTRALIANBOARDRIDERSBATTLE.COM

Snapper's Simkus, throwing tail at the home of the National Final.
PHOTO: WOODHAM / SURFING AUSTRALIA

2015/16 ORIGINAL SOURCE AUSTRALIAN BOARDRIDERS BATTLE

Here at Surfing Life we bloody dig core, grassroots surfing. And there's nothing more core and grassroots than Australian boardriders clubs. The Original Source Australian Boardriders Battle is the biggest grassroots, boardriders event in Australia. Organised by Surfing Australia, and supported by Nikon, Toyota, Boost Mobile and Oakley, it involves more than 100 of Australia's best boardriders clubs across eight State qualifying rounds, culminating in a two-day National Final for 20 clubs on the Australia Day long weekend at Cronulla in Sydney. The series is officially sanctioned by the World Surf League, which allows Australian WSL Championship Tour surfers the opportunity to represent their local boardriders clubs. Some of Australia's and the world's best competing for their local boardriders club... how good is that!? Check out the details below and get involved!



NATIONAL FINAL

JANUARY 23rd – 24th, CRONULLA

Will consist of:

- 6 x NSW boardriders clubs
- 4 x Queensland
- 2 x Victoria
- 1 x Western Australia
- 1 x South Australia
- 1 x Tasmania
- 1 x Host Boardriders Club – Cronulla Sharks Boardriders
- 4 x Wildcard Clubs by application

Each club team will consist of six surfers, including one female:

- 1 Junior Under 18
- 4 Opens
- 1 Over 35

NATIONAL SERIES PRIZE

MONEY: \$110,000

NATIONAL FINAL PRIZE

MONEY: \$81,000

STATE QUALIFYING SCHEDULE

EVENT 1: TASMANIA

September 19, 2015
Scamander

EVENT 2: SOUTH AUSTRALIA

October 10, 2015
Fleurieu Peninsula

EVENT 3: NSW NORTH

October 31, 2015
Yamba

EVENT 4: QUEENSLAND

November 7, 2015
Gold Coast

EVENT 5: NSW CENTRAL

November 14, 2015
North Narrabeen

EVENT 6: WESTERN AUSTRALIA

November 21, 2015
Trigg

EVENT 7: VICTORIA

December 12, 2015
Phillip Island

EVENT 8: NSW SOUTH

January 9, 2016
Kiama

balin

SURFERS HARDWARE



Team Tested: Caiden Fowler

trvl SURF



W E L C O M E S A S H E R

*Head to the site to check out
our ambassadors,
our destinations and the new film
'Five Islands, Six Days'
with Asher Pacey*

w w w . t r v l s u r f . c o m



3DFINS

JOSH KERR MOONRAKERR DARKSIDE CARBON: \$135
CHRISTIAN FLETCHER QUAD CARBON: \$189

Josh Kerr's new model is slightly larger, designed to maximise drive for bigger and more powerful waves, whereas new ambassador Christian Fletcher's quad model is made to fly!

Surfing and golf go hand-in-hand. You might think that's crazy, and that I should shut up, and you'd be right both times, but surfers who play golf have become a lot more common in the last few years. It doesn't work both ways, though, because having lots of golfers who surf would really be crazy. Anyway, to be good at golf, and therefore stop hating golf, you essentially need a lot of spare time and money. That obviously includes an incredibly large percentage of professional surfers, so it kind of makes sense that everyone from Kelly Slater to Dusty Payne will don the impeccably stylish polo shirt/gloves/sensible pants combo every now and again. Both sports manage

to be inherently individual, but also somewhat of a social club, and both have had ridiculous inventions by Laird Hamilton inflicted on them (the golf board, etc). What's not quite so ridiculous, though, is learning from golf's clever ball dimples (why are you laughing?) to go faster on a surfboard. Apparently, those cheeky dimples reduce drag, so when they're applied to a fin, and ridden by Josh Kerr or Christian Fletcher or possibly your very fine self, they provide extra lift, speed, and a 70 per cent chance that you will beat up your best friend with a golf club if you don't land every air you try. – **SZ** 3dfins.com

O'NEILL

HYPERFREAK OBLIQUE 2.0
\$79.99

Made with O'Neill's patented Hyperfreak Epic Stretch technology and in a perfect 19" leg-length, these boardies are faultless in and out of the water, and at an affordable price.

Second grade is a pivotal time in a child's life. It's when being cool becomes a thing, alongside being a dork, a nerd, a jock, a tomboy, a cry-baby, a mama's boy/girl, a ladies man and all those other stereotypes that kids fall into during their formative school years. There's a sense of self-awareness that develops that wasn't there before – maybe because kids on the playground can be dickheads (yeah, I'm looking at you, Paisley – but that's a story for another time). In second grade I wasn't the coolest kid. I was slightly hyperactive and had zero hand-eye coordination. I also walked on my tippy toes quite drastically – so much so that I bounced when I walked. So one day I went to the doctor's for this bouncing, and he told me that I had extremely short Achilles tendons,

and if I didn't fix them now I'd be retarded later in life (this was before political correctness was a thing). So they hyperflexed my feet and put them in casts, and I rapidly became known as the overactive kid who had two giant green boots on both her legs. They were there for six months. Needless to say, I wasn't the cool kid in class. But looking back now, I see it as character building. And everyone needs character building in their lives. Only now, you don't have to be the lamest person in school to get it – simply purchase a pair of these bad boys and you can honestly say that you have worn the title of Hyperfreak. Only this kind of hyperfreak is trendy and stretchy and comfortable, and not big, hard, green symbols of low social status. Enjoy. – **ML** oneill.com



BIGWAVEAWARDS.COM.AU

SURFING LIFE'S OAKLEY BIG WAVE AWARDS

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, chargers and wimps alike... it's on again. We'd like to say a big thanks to Oakley for jumping back on board the Big Wave Awards bandwagon in 2015 and allowing the annual celebration of the biggest nutbars and lunatics riding waves in Australian and New Zealand waters to commence, once again. Well, in reality, it's been running all year long, but we're about to launch the new website and start collating all the lunacy that's gone down since

Jaryd Foster walked away with \$20,000 in February for his efforts in 2014. This very magazine has just chronicled one of the swells that may generate quite a few finalists, but the year is still young, and there are many giant waves to be ridden yet. If you're a surfer or shooter of giant surf, get in touch and make sure your hat is well and truly in the ring. For those of you who are far more sane, stay tuned to the website for updates. Not contest singlets. No ratings points. Just one REALLY BIG WAVE.

GET INVOLVED

WWW.SURFINGLIFE.COM.AU

THE ED
 Surfing Life Towers
 Level 1, 25 Lemana Lane
 Burleigh Heads, QLD, 4220

Or just email us, jerks:
wade@surfinglife.com.au



@surfinglife



@surfinglife



facebook.com/SurfingLifeMagazine



replies@surfinglife.com.au

Broken Leg? Snapped Board? No worries - now it's ALL covered!

photo thanks: www.sumatransurfing.com

“ If your board snaps
you can claim it ! ”

The **ONLY** Travel Insurance that covers Surfboards **IN** the surf

There's nothing worse than snapping your favourite board on the first day of your trip. Except breaking your leg, and needing a \$50,000 emergency Medevac flight home!

Thankfully these days there's finally ONE Travel Insurance that covers everything - Medevac, Hospitals AND Surfboards damaged IN the surf.

INDO SURF TRAVEL INSURANCE is run by the author of the classic “Indo Surf 'n Lingo” Guidebook. This is the best travel insurance for surfers he's found after 40 years of Indo travel. The **ONLY** one that also covers Surfboards IN the surf. Snap it and you can claim it!

Every year 25,000 Australians get into trouble overseas and need Australian Embassy help. In Bali alone the Consulate helps over 200 serious motorbike accident victims a year. Over 20,000 Aussies end up in Bali hospitals. Some Emergency Evacuations from Bali have cost over \$50,000. In the USA one surfer copped a \$290,000 medical bill.

But here's the Good News: At G-LAND and in the MENTAWAIS, surfers have had their lives saved with a free Helicopter flight or speedboat trip to hospital, thankfully all covered by their travel insurance.

If you're about to surf in a country with huge waves, shallow coral reefs, crazy traffic, live volcanos, earthquakes, tsunamis - don't take the risk! **INDO SURF TRAVEL INSURANCE** only costs \$9 a DAY for a typical 3 week surf trip. You get all this: See Website for full details & Conditions

Unlimited Medical Expenses overseas for Doctors, Hospitals
Unlimited Emergency Evacuation Flights to get you back home
Unlimited Cancellation Costs, Airfares. Hotels, extra Expenses
\$12,000 cover for lost or stolen Luggage, Cameras, Computers, Phones
Surfboards are covered for \$700 to \$1000 – even while IN use surfing
Motorbike Accident Personal Injury, which other companies don't cover
You need an Aussie Motorbike licence, wear a helmet & don't drink-drive
* For travel ANYWHERE Worldwide: Indo, Maldives, Pacific, USA

SURFBOARDS covered even IN the surf



MEDEVAC Flights, Doctors, Hospitals



MOTORBIKE Personal Injury



INDO SURF TRAVEL INSURANCE

www.indosurf.com.au

Don't buy Travel Insurance before you ask: “Does it cover surfboards IN the surf?”

FCS
GABRIEL MEDINA
ATHLETE SERIES
\$179.95



Combining the versatility of the Performer template with a customised flex pattern, sitting between Performance Core and Performance Core Carbon. Providing a balance of speed, flow and response, the fin accommodates a dynamic and powerful style of surfing and is available in large and extra small sizes.

Backing up a world title is a tough ask. Like a newly hyped band's sophomore album, or the follow-up date with that gal that's got you rattled – the pressure level is ramped up and you've got an evil monkey on your back whispering negative thoughts. Gabriel Medina stormed to his first title last year and was every bit a deserving world champion, and while 2015 has been a bit of a tougher ask for the youngster, every world champ has had a less-than-perfect follow-up year after the first time they hoisted the silverware. Gabriel, however, is a fighter, and we know the back half of 2015 for him is going to be a good one, especially having legends like the crew at FCS on his side, launching his signature fin. Just like Gabby, his Athlete Series fin is powerful, dynamic, balanced and, well, colourful! We know that if you pick up a set and clip them in your new, game-changing FCS II fin boxes, that you, too, will be soooo heeppy! – RJ
surffcs.com.au

IT'S A NEW CAR!

We loved our Toyota Rav4. She was there with us through good times and in bad, sickness and in health, barrels and in ramps, offshores and in onshores. But then, we got the email we were dreading... it was time to take her home. Back to her stable, far from the coast, at a horrible, non-surfy place called Acacia Ridge. Oh the sorrow both we and she felt as we piloted her inland, away from the salt air that would once caress her sweet curves. Rust be damned, she loved the ocean and the ocean loved her! But alas, we had to give her back... and pick up a brand-new one! Ha! Out with the old and in with the new! 2014 temptress be gone, welcome, new lover! This is Surfing Life's sixth year in partnership with Toyota and their Rav4. In six years, the trusty Rav4 has come a very long way in looks, performance and functionality for surfers. No longer a car driven by your mum's hairdresser. Now, it's a car driven by the discerning waterman... bugger off, Tracy, go and get a Holden Barina! We can proudly say that it's the finest surf vehicle we've had the pleasure of driving; resplendent with seat warmers, automatic-bloody-everything, enough room for multiple quivers in the back, and equipped with racks if you require more space. As a surfer, you'd be hard pressed to find a more effective surf-hunter. We've got the Turbo Diesel number and it's a damn treat to drive, not to mention incredibly efficient on fuel. If you're in the market, get in and around a Rav4 and you won't be disappointed. – RJ



MP TEAM MITCH PARKINSON SIGNATURE TRACITON. 3 PIECE \$45.99



PALMERS 6'4 EXCURSION DOUBLE 5MM PADDED DOUBLE WITH BOARD SPLIT \$159.99

PALMERS WRAP RACKS AUTO WRAP RACKS FOR 4 X BOARDS \$59.95



www.palmerssurf.com.au
facebook.com/MRSPALMERSSURFWAX
ACCESSORIES
email@palmerssurf.com.au

THE SURF DIRECTORY: INDONESIA

A comprehensive guide to surfing throughout Indonesia – locations, travel, maps, a complete list of charter boat, surf camps and resort options. Everything you need for a hassle free surf holiday - All in one directory!



We love Indonesia. You love Indonesia. Hell, it's why we made, and you devoured, the issue previous to this one. It is, without a doubt, the country with the most perfect waves within its boundaries. Not to mention pristine wilderness areas, fascinating, endemic wildlife, a population brimming with cultural and religious diversity, endless natural resources and incredible food... the list goes on. There are a lot of sources these days that you can get your travelling surf-knowledge from when it comes to Indo... websites, books, apps, grumpy old Greg down at the pub who's 27 trips deep. But, one of the latest we've discovered, is the hard-covered book version of one of the most trustworthy websites around. Aiming to be the most comprehensive and detailed surf directory for all the land-based surf accommodation and charter boats in the archipelago, it comes pretty damn close! Or, at least, it does the best and most thorough job of anyone we've seen thus far. You know you're already planning your next trip. Get a hold of this and make sure you're not missing out on any incredible locations, waves, camps, boats or deals. – RJ
surfdirectoryindonesia.com

KOMUNITY PROJECT CLAY MARZO SIGNATURE TRACTION \$59.95

A three-piece signature pad, built with Lightec construction, elevated square traction and premium adhesive, and is available in a range of green and blue colourways.



That last bit is what I'd like to talk about. The colourways. Those things that look like something a hypnotist would use to lure you into a deep sleep where you don't remember dancing on stage to Michael Jackson's *Thriller*. See, I dated this guy once whose housemate was a magician (and a legend), and on one very stupid night I said that I'd be his assistant for the next big show in San Diego. The night of the show I drowned my inhibitions in a bottle of champagne and went on the stage, where (for the sake of anonymity let's just call him Kevin) Kevin proceeded to 'hypnotise' me. Yeah, right. As if. Humbug. Pish posh. But turns out that it must have worked, because I then danced on stage to Michael Jackson's *Thriller* (moonwalk included) and did god knows what else, without one ounce of memory. Whether that was from the bubbles in my brain or the colourways he was spinning in front of me, I can't be sure, but one thing IS for sure – however embarrassing, it was a bloody good time. And if patterns repeat history, Komunity Project's Clay Marzo traction pad will be a bloody good time, too. Hooray for colourways! – SZ
komunityproject.com

CREW

EDITORIAL

EDITOR: Wade Davis wade@surfinglife.com.au
MANAGING EDITOR: Ryan Jones ryan@surfinglife.com.au
DESIGNER AND APP DEVELOPER: Dave Read davidr@morrissonmedia.com.au
BOARD SPORTS VIDEO PRODUCER: Sam Norwood sam@surfinglife.com.au
ONLINE EDITOR: Mimi LaMontagne mimi.l@surfinglife.com.au
INTERN: Sam Zubevich sam.z@surfinglife.com.au
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Gra Murdoch gra@morrissonmedia.com.au
FEATURES EDITOR: Nick Carroll ncsurf@ozemail.com.au
FEATURES EDITOR: Tim Baker tim@bytimbaker.com
PUBLISHER – BOARD SPORT TITLES: Craig Sims craig@morrissonmedia.com.au

CONTRIBUTORS

Tim Baker, Chris Binns, David "Crappy" Campbell, Nick Carroll, Mariah Ernst, Mimi LaMontagne, Jed Smith, Brittany Lee Waller.

SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Scott Bauer, Ray Collins, Andrew Chisholm, Hilton Dawe, Damea Dorsey, Stuart Gibson, Ted Grambeau, Duncan Macfarlane, Tim McKenna, Trent Mitchell, Bill Morris, Russell Ord, Shane Peel, Lee Pegus, Daniel Russo, Andrew Shield.

THE ASL PHOTO FAMILY

Nate Adams, Eric Aeder, Scott Aichner, Damon Arandelovic, Shelli Bankier, Brent Biemann, Brian Biemann, John Bilderback, Peter Boskovich, Art Brewer, Chris Burkard, John Callahan, Tom Carey, Sylvain Cazenave, Jason Childs, Steve Conti, Justin Crawford, Tyler Cuddy, Mick Curley, Jeff Divine, Jack English, Grant Ellis, Alfredo Escobar, Jon Farthing, Jeff Flindt, Pete Frieden, Hank, Rob Hazelwood, Yassine Hilal, Leith Holtzman, Dick Hoole, Dustin Humphrey, Mark Johnson, Joli, Lucia Griggi, Nick LaVecchia, Nathan Lawrence, Morgan Maassen, Brad Masters, Ryan Miller, Jason Murray, Mark Newsham, Dave Nelson, Rod Owen, Jason Reposar, John Respondek, Tom Servais, Roger Sharp, Peter Simons, Jamie Scott, Kelly Smith, Mickey Smith, Chris Straley, DJ Struntz, Ian Stewart, Patrick Trefz, David Troyer, Marty Tullemans, Corey Wilson, Scott Winer.

ADVERTISING

NATIONAL SALES MANAGER: Andy Rosenberg 0421 384 428 andy@morrissonmedia.com.au
ACCOUNT MANAGER: Rob "Bainy" Bain 0433 795 595 rob.b@morrissonmedia.com.au
AD PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR: Claire Hutchence (07) 5520 9128 claireh@morrissonmedia.com.au
GENERAL MANAGER: Craig Sims craig@morrissonmedia.com.au
FINANCIAL CONTROLLER: Pete Moreny pete.m@morrissonmedia.com.au
PRODUCTION MANAGER: John "Miracle" Harland john@morrissonmedia.com.au
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Adam Brown (07) 5520 9124 adam.b@morrissonmedia.com.au
IT MANAGER: Josh Croft josh@morrissonmedia.com.au
DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR: Jason Collins jason.c@morrissonmedia.com.au
ADMINISTRATION: Angela Thompson, Kim Woodward
PROOFREADER: Noel O'Halloran
SUBSCRIPTION & MERCHANDISE MANAGER: Marina Thomas subs@surfinglife.com.au



TO SUBSCRIBE

Free call in Australia 1800 069 918 OR go to page 108 of this issue
OR visit www.surfinglife.com.au/shop

Send contributions to the Editor wade@surfinglife.com.au or post to PO Box 823, Burleigh Heads, Q. 4220. We will not hold ourselves responsible for unsolicited contributions. SL will retain reprint rights, contributors retain all other rights for resale and republication. SL is published 12 times a year by Morrison Media Services, Street: Level 1, 25 Lemana Lane, North Burleigh, Q. 4220. Post: PO Box 823, Burleigh Heads, Q. 4220. Views expressed by authors are not necessarily those of the publisher. Copyright is reserved, which means you can't scan our pages and put them up on your website or anywhere else. Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited. Email addresses are published for professional communications only. AUST & N.Z. Distributor Gordon & Gotch. Surfing Life – Built In Burleigh, Since 1985 – Morrison Media www.morrissonmedia.com.au



**WIN A
FREE
SURF TRIP
TO THE BANYAK ISLANDS
+
A CUSTOM
THORNTON
FALLANDER
CHANNEL-BOTTOM SURFBOARD!**

{Valued at \$4495USD}

ENTER VIA OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!



CONTACT US:

Ph: 0434 080 694

Email: info@surfbanyak.com

www.surfbanyak.com



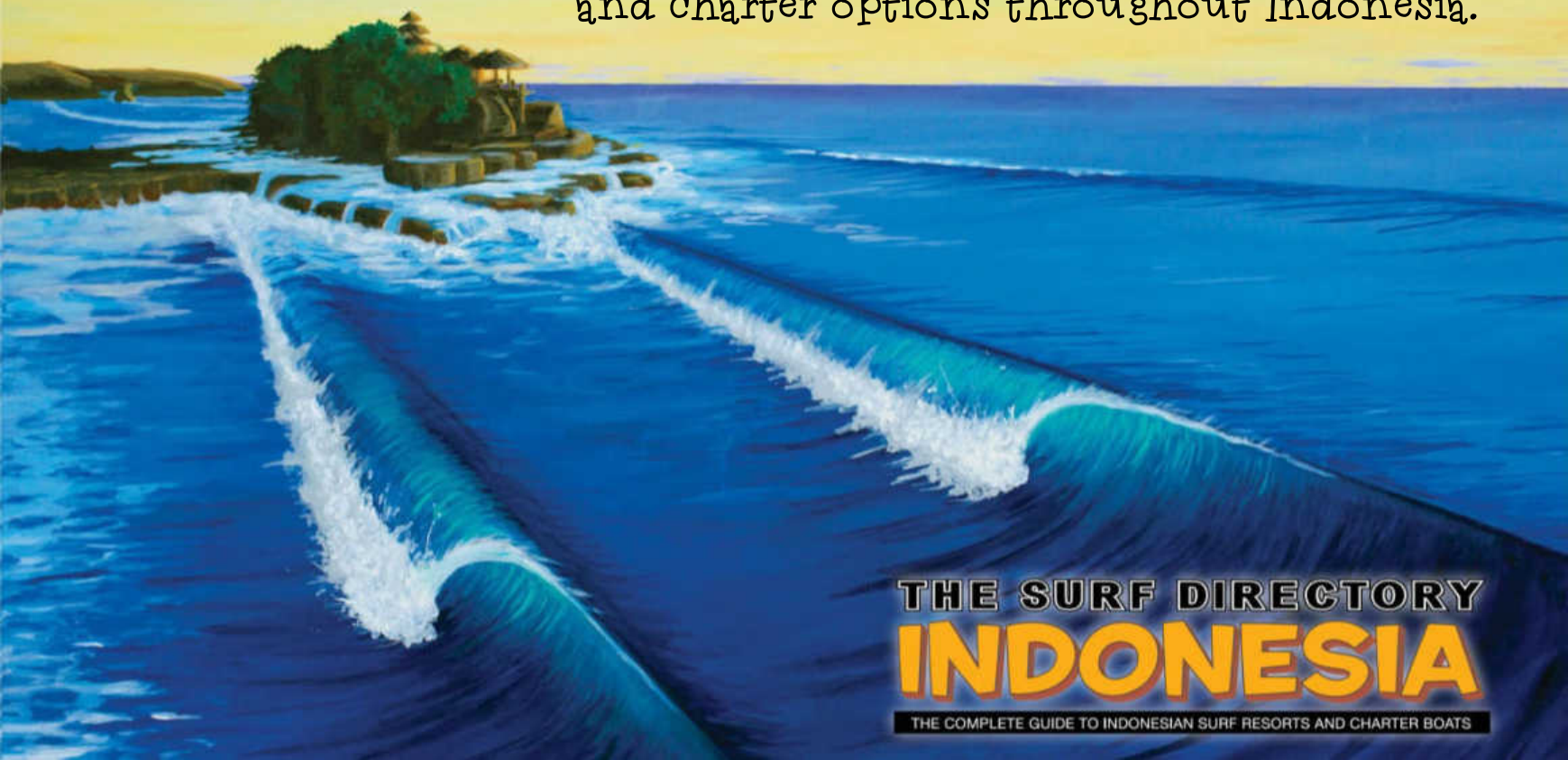
[surfbanyakcom](https://www.instagram.com/surfbanyakcom)



[surfbanyak](https://www.facebook.com/surfbanyak)

surfdirectoryindonesia.com

a comprehensive directory of all surf accommodation
and charter options throughout Indonesia.



**THE SURF DIRECTORY
INDONESIA**

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO INDONESIAN SURF RESORTS AND CHARTER BOATS

QUALITY & PROVEN SURF ACCESSORIES



PUKA PATCH

The highest selling Instant Ding Repair & Rail Tape in Australia. Instant waterproof repairing across various watercraft provides a cost effective solution to keep you in the water at all times! Will stick to anything PU / Epoxy / Kite Bladders / Sails / Tents / high wear areas on Boat Rails etc. Won't fade or discolour, a clear product that is barely visible. The thin & rubbery like qualities provide the strength of thicker tapes... yet without any drag, edges to catch on & bubble free application due to the stretch factor. Available in 2 size patches, prepackaged Rail Kits kits or 50mtr rolls.

<http://pukapatch.com>



'JIMMY' WETSUIT POUCH

Putting on a wetsuit has never been so easy - less time in the change room, less time in the parking lot & more time in the water! Slip into a wet or dry suit about 90% faster... especially in the cold!

Hang for easy access or fold back up & slip into your wallet, made from a highly durable & slippery material that works 100x better than a plastic bag, a must have accessory for any wetsuit owner.

<http://www.easysurfing.com>



SURFINZ
Adjustable Fin Systems

SURFINZ

Ask for Surfinz on your next board - why? Because it will take your dual tab fins, you can adjust them forward or back & the under the glass install is the strongest option. Rail boxes come pre-set at 6 or 10 degree cant giving you every option to accommodate flat bottoms, deep channels or concaves. Surfinz carbon composite fins available in L/Board centres, S/Board Thrusters / Quads / Quin or Grom Quin's with FREE Nibbler Mini Pivot fin! Extremely strong, durable & reliable. Surfinz is the fastest growing & simplest fin system on the market today!

<http://surfinz.com/>



ECOXGEAR

ECOXGEAR

Highest rated waterproof, shockproof, weatherproof, bluetooth speakers on the market.

Also float & submersible! Incredible sound & tough enough to handle any environment from the beaches of the Bahamas, to the deserts of Arizona to the mountains of the Swiss Alps.

ECOXGEAR products are made to take a beating. Just Play...in the snow, sand and water.

<http://www.ecoxgear.com>



SURF LOCK

Surf Lock is the ideal solution to an age-old problem, it's not safe to leave your car keys hidden somewhere on your car or wrapped up in a beach towel. Surf Lock can be easily attached to different locations on your car, providing a safe & secure place to store your car keys or immobiliser while enjoying the outdoors. When not in use, the lock is small enough to be kept in the glove box of your car. Ideal for surfers, swimmers, adventuring outdoors, boating or fishing.

It can be secured to the tie down on your vehicle, your roof rack, wheel or trailer & is great anytime you need to leave your car but can't or don't want to carry your keys with you. Don't become a statistic, take security seriously with Surf Lock & don't be left watching from your surfboard as someone drives off in your car!



ISLAND TRIBE

Researched & developed by leading sunscreen laboratories in both Australia & South Africa, alongside professionals in the industry, to ensure that the formulas developed are world class. Island Tribe sunscreens are designed to give the user maximum protection against both UVA & UVB rays, each sunscreen having been designed with a unique consumer in mind. In addition to this, our products are recognised by the TGA as protection against the harmful effects of the sun. Launched in 1992 with the aim of providing a waterproof sun protection for all watersport enthusiasts, the range consisted of only the Clear Gel, which to this day has been unrivalled by competition. Now distributed in 25 countries, the Island Tribe sunscreen range is different from conventional sun ranges due to its CLEAR gel products & the water resistance they offer. We pride ourselves in having the most trusted water resistant sunscreen on the market.



WAX BUDDY

WAX BUDDY

Simply put, the Wax Buddy is the perfect wax tool, try it once & you will never go back to using ordinary wax combs again.

Made from 100% recycled ABS plastic. Also a great option for private label branding.

www.waxbuddy.com



MyGo
Share Your View

MY GO

The MyGo Mouth Mount for GoPro® & action sports cameras has a comfortable Rubber Mouthpiece, bite supports for stable footage, a massive air channel for unrestricted breathing & a low profile lanyard to keep your camera close. We thought of everything!

Designed with flexibility & ease-of-use in mind & motivated by one surfer's desire to share what it feels like to get spit out of a macking barrel, we knew that the traditional options for GoPro® mounts just wouldn't suffice. The result is a compact, lightweight & sturdy mouth mount that can get you the sickest shots of your biggest tricks & waves as you see them. Beware, it's extremely addicting!



OUCH!

OUCH

This 100% Herbal formulation is safe for children of all ages & can be re-applied as often as needed. Ouch! Instant Sting Relief Spray & Insect Repellent are proudly manufactured in Australia. 100% Herbal and organic, the range does not contain any nasty chemicals so it can be used for the entire family - most of all young children. Tested in some of the harshest environments by some of the biggest sceptics Ouch! has quickly become the product of choice amongst outdoor enthusiasts. Compact & Lightweight, can be carried in any purse, handbag, shirt or boardshort pocket. With over 300 sprays per pack the range is affordable & is a must for your next outdoor adventure.



STAR FINS

STARFIN

With designer Ben Lexcen, Cheyne Horan developed a winged keel fin based on an America's Cup sailboat design. The Star Fin has been a great success for Cheyne & continues to sell well today... now seeing increased growth through retro single fins, longboards & SUP.



SCARFINI
FINS

SCARFINI

A simple, high quality fin range growing from strength to strength.

Covers everything from Thruster to Groms to Quads to Keels.



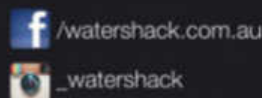
Finger grip
Removable tacky

FINGER GRIP

Safely & secure your watercraft of choice using the finger hold displays, either horizontally or vertically. Cost effective & easily removable, great for retail or homes.

Replace one of the box images with this additional attached image titled 'vertical storage'.

DISTRIBUTED BY:
Email: rob@watershack.com.au



OTHER WATERSHACK BRANDS:





FCS TOOL-LESS LONGBOARD FINS \$119.95

Incorporating the patented FCS II technology, removing the need for a screw and plate, it takes just seconds to insert and remove, or make subtle adjustments back and forth, mid-session. Along with the new tech comes an entirely new range of fins – the Essential Series – three unique fin templates, the CONNECT, PIVOT and FLOW, each suited to a different style of longboard surfing, from a fast, high-performance approach through to nose-riding and more traditional styles.

Just when you thought FCS couldn't change the game anymore after they shifted the world with their FCS II system, they go ahead and shake things up even further. We shortboarders have been hooked up by FCS II for sometime now, and, Surfing Life at least, won't be looking back. But what of our longboarding brethren!? Fear not, slow-moving yet stylish types! The new tool-less range brings all the benefits of FCS II to the log game and then some. Not only can you easily pop, in and out, your fin of choice – from their new three fin Essential Series range – but the system and fins allow you to easily slide your fin, back and forth, to mix up the feel and performance of the board you're riding. Right then and there, in the water, or on the beach, without the need for screws or tools or anything. Now, some of you out there, the more hardcore shred-dogs of our readership, will turn up your nose at this product; Mate, 6'3" and below or nothing! *Bloody hipsters and their cross-steppin' bullshit, what a wank! Do a proper turn!*... But we raise you one contentious point... Harley Ingleby. Watch Harley surf, any damn board he pleases from five-foot to twelve-foot, and you'll see how beneficial riding a vastly longer board, or at least switching up your boards every now and then, can be for your surfing. The new tool-less longboard range from FCS only gives you more chance to improve your shredding, and do so more easily. Get on it! – RJ surffcs.com.au



RIP CURL RAPTURE BOARDWALK \$79.99

The Boardwalk Series takes adaptability to the next level by combining walkshort styling with Rip Curl's boardshort fabric technology, to create the ultimate all-purpose stretch walkshort in the water and on land.

If you google 'stupid inventions' (seriously, do it), you'll find a whole manner of hilariously idiotic products that have been developed over the years with the attempt to better our existence – making things easier, faster, cleaner, more efficient. Things like the multi-purpose cane that's also a flute, umbrella, pipe and butterfly catcher. Bacon-flavoured toothpaste. Flavoured wallpaper. Glow-in-the-dark toilet paper. Anything advertised on late-night TV that says it will give you abs. Or wigs... for your cat! There are some things that just aren't meant to exist, but there's a good chance that a fool somewhere in the world has invented them anyway. You know who aren't fools, though? The shred-lords at Rip Curl. They know how good their boardshort tech feels when wrapped around your pasty thighs. You know how good they feel. Just like Ned Flanders' ski-suit, they feel like you're wearing "nothing at all... nothing at all". But, when you're back on land, you can't take that light, flexible feeling with you everywhere. Or can you!? The New Boardwalk Series from Rip Curl combines the super-high-performance boardshort tech and puts it into a walkshort styling, so you can feel like you're wearing nothing at all, on land, all the time. Flanders would wear them. Stupid, sexy Flanders. – RJ ripcurl.com.au



THE SURFING LIFE ONLINE TRAVEL GUIDE SURFLIFELIFE.COM.AU/GUIDES/TRAVEL-BIBLE-2015

So you'd have to be pretty crazy to have made your way to this point in the magazine and not have had some sort of surf-travel-fire lit inside you. Although the one storm, and associated swell, that we chronicled in this magazine made half the world pump, all of these spots (and more) actually don't need a storm, or a swell, of this magnitude to get cooking. Half the world is pumping, like, right now! Different storms, different swells, different waves, different winds, different climates, different countries. It's both exciting and depressing to know that, at this very instant, we're all missing out on perfect waves somewhere in the world. But you don't have to miss out! You don't have to be depressed! Get excited. All you need to do is jump online, check out the Surfing Life Travel Guide, pick a location and go and get barrelled. It really is that simple. And thanks to our mates at Flight Centre, who also provide you with their inbuilt flight-finder app, it's even simpler! The world is your oyster, devour that sucker!



**TO CELEBRATE THE LAUNCH OF THE
MAD CAT, CLAY MARZO'S SIGNATURE
SUPER BRAND MODEL, WE WANT TO
DECK YOU OUT WITH SOME OF THEIR
FINE APPAREL.**



TO SUBSCRIBE:

ONLINE

www.surfinglife.com.au/shop

PHONE

1800 069 918 within Australia
+61 7 5576 1388

EMAIL

subs@surfinglife.com.au

Please make cheque or money order payable to Morrison Media Services. Subscription will commence with issue 326 sent out on/around 1/10/2015. Offer available to Australian residents only and while stocks last. Product and style may vary due to availability. Gift is 1 of 30 SUPER Brand Tees. Offer expires on the 7/10/2015. Easy payment plan: Your card will be debited every 3 months at \$28 and will continue unless cancelled by you. You may cancel at any time and receive a refund on any unsent issues. Easy Payment Plan is only available to Australian residents. Offer not included with Payment Plan or with a 6-month subscription.

Clay Marzo on his Mad Cat.
PHOTO: MIKE RILEY

SUBSCRIBE

TO SURFING LIFE



PAYMENT PLAN
3 MONTHS **\$28.00**
(3 ISSUES)

6 MONTHS **\$54.95**
(6 ISSUES)

1 YEAR **\$99.95**
(12 ISSUES)

NOTE: ALL PRICES ARE IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INTERNATIONAL PRICES



DIGITAL EDITIONS: www.surflinglife.com.au/digitaledition

BACK ISSUES: www.surflinglife.com.au/shop

And with that the storm stopped spinning, and it's last lingering dribbles of swell lapped up along far-flung shores and the swell of the century/millennium/that particular week stopped gifting surfers lumps upon which we could express our surfing lives to varying degrees of competence and bravery.

But there will be another storm to follow it, and another after that, and the storms that spin the world will keep on influencing absolutely everything that we do, in and out of the water, because more than taxes, and on par with death, storms will continue to blow from west to east with nano-odd certainty.

And we'll continue to follow them and ride their swells and fill the pages of this classy rag with stories and photos of storm fed sessions the world over.

Next month we're talking about polar opposites – night and day, hot and cold, deserts and tropical islands. Morocco, The South Coast, King Island, the Goldie and boardshorts, boardshorts for miles.

That storm has stopped, but there'll be more to come, and Surfing Life will make sure we're around to keep you squared up on the malarkey they inspire. The next issue is on the racks October 1st, a little more pronto for you cheeky little subscribers. 🐣

The Goldie has kind of been pumping, y'heard? Plenty more of this magic next issue. Bede can't wait.
PHOTO: ANDREW SHIELD



THEY FLOAT

H2O
FLOATABLE
COLLECTION

 PERFORMANCE POLAR



HYDROPHOBIC
LENS TREATMENT



OLEOPHOBIC
LENS TREATMENT



WATERPROOF
HARDWARE



LIGHT WEIGHT
FRAME



SCRATCH
RESISTANT



@dragonalliance

THE ROADBLOCK

#DontCrackUnderPressure



TAG Heuer

SWISS AVANT-GARDE SINCE 1860

AQUARACER CALIBRE 16 CHRONOGRAPH



TAG Heuer Flagship Stores
Sydney: Corner of Pitt & Market St
Melbourne: 330 Collins St • Melbourne International Airport
Brisbane: Corner of Elizabeth & Edward St
www.tagheuer.com • 1800 809 915